

JAHANGIR'S

— Has the Asian Century Begun? —

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# WORLD TIMES



In memory of our disciplined and illustrious Niaz Jahangir whose dedication and professionalism set the standard for all.

First Comprehensive Magazine for students/teachers of competitive exams and general readers as well. Opinions reflected in articles/reviews published in Jahangir's World Times are those of the authors and should not be attributed to the Editor or the Publisher. Obligated acknowledgments are due to the resources Jahangir's World Times has used.

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Surah-20 To Ha/ Ayat 8: To Him belongs what is in the heavens and on earth, and all

## Screening Test for CSS

### A win-win situation for all

**I**n its meeting on October 27th, the federal cabinet has made an important decision regarding Central Superior Services (CSS) exam: conduct of a screening test before the written examination. The Establishment Division had submitted a proposal at the cabinet meeting, chaired by Prime Minister Imran Khan, in this regard. As per the details shared by the Federal Information Minister, Fawad Chaudhary, the passing marks for this test have been set at 33 – apparently to address the concerns of aspirants belonging to provinces and regions other than Punjab.

With this decision, the government intends to make the CSS exam more effective and, at the same time, enable the Federal Public Service Commission (FPSC) to select highly-motivated and truly deserving candidates for the written part of the exam. Providing details about the causes behind this decision, in his post-meeting press briefing, the honourable Information Minister said that owing to a huge and growing number of aspirants, "it takes FPSC around 18 months to process a CSS exam [and declare its final result]. He explained that it is just because many 'non-serious' candidates take this exam only to flaunt that they once took the CSS exam – this is, indeed, a thing we have been consistently pointing out from the pages of Jahangir's World Times. Nevertheless, it is a welcome decision and would certainly lighten the workload of FPSC.

It must be noted here that this decision is not something out of the blue as the debate on introducing a screening test has been going on for quite some time now. After years of vacillating between conducting and not conducting such a test, serious efforts in this direction started when Prime Minister Imran Khan, soon after assuming power, embarked on a journey to radically reform the civil service of Pakistan as he wanted this to a truly service delivery-oriented body. He formed a special task force on civil service reforms. Headed by Dr Ishrat Husain, a former Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan and a bureaucrat, this body worked relentlessly and proposed, inter alia, that a screening test be conducted for determining problem-solving and analytical abilities of those who aspire to join the civil services. On its part, FPSC also, owing to a tremendous increase in the number of candidates for this prestigious exam, proposed a screening test for CSS 2020 exam. It proposed that the test may be conducted in January/February 2020 and the main examination 2-3 months later.

But, the federal cabinet thought otherwise and turned down this proposal fearing that candidates belonging to the underdeveloped areas would be out of the competition if the test was introduced. The cabinet members further argued that making screening test mandatory just a few weeks before the CSS 2020 exam would be unfair to the candidates. The matter was, hence deferred for a year.

Now, the cabinet has approved the proposal in days almost similar to those in 2020, making the CSS 2022 aspirants jittery just like the cabinet members who showed concern on limited time available to aspirants. The FPSC has also kept them on their toes as no official information about the modalities of the test has been made available yet. It is, then, understandable why the decision has flustered the aspirants. In order to clear the air, the FPSC has to announce at the earliest as to whether this test will be conducted before CSS 2022 written exam or will the decision be applicable from next year, i.e. 2023.

On the other hand, as we have discussed at length this issue from JWT pages, it seems opportune to alleviate fears of prospective aspirants and remind them that it will not be a hard nut to crack, if prepared for prudently and wisely.

First of all, it would, in essence, be an elimination test whereby those who just appear in CSS exam to chance their arm, will be sifted out. Second, screening tests before competitive examinations are widely practiced all over the world. For example, for the Indian Civil Service, this is called Prelims and comprises two papers of 200 marks each which require a candidate to score at least 33% to qualify for the Mains (or in our context, written) exam.

Third, since most CSS aspirants also take exams for provincial management services (PMS) of their respective provinces, they would be aware that such a test is being already conducted by public service commissions of Sindh, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa while in Punjab, PMS exam contains a General Knowledge paper carrying 100 marks which is similar to that a screening test. In addition, thousands of aspirants every year take One-paper (MCQs) exams, again similar to a screening test. So, it will not be something new to most aspirants.

Fourth, it is to be noted here that a significant part of CSS written exam papers – 220 marks out of total 1200 – consists of the objective part, i.e. MCQs. It is a common observation that those who secure top position in the final merit list secure 75-80 percent marks in the objective part. So, they are already in the process of preparing for a screening test.

Fifth, in their interviews published in JWT regularly – hundreds of them have been published to date – most successful candidates opine that new aspirants should pay special attention to scoring maximum marks in MCQs part as it would enhance their overall score in the written part, and will ultimately lead to them in their dream groups/service.

So, they need not fear the screening test; just take it as another stage added to the original scheme of CSS exam. Since the MCQ-based test is a different ballgame altogether, it would help candidates polish their critical thinking skills by studying all topics at length instead of reproducing the crammed material on the answer sheet. It will, in turn, will enhance your chances to clear the written exam with excellent score.

Another benefit that the FPSC will get is the improved percentage of successful candidates that will further improve its image that seems somewhat tarnished due to unfair criticism it is often subjected to. Overall, it can be a win-win situation for all.



Adeel Niaz

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### Language Death

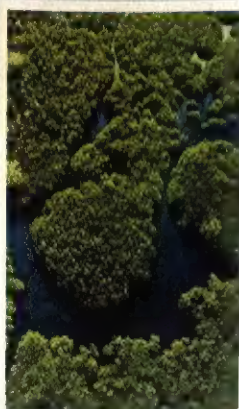
Languages change because humans are able to adapt to their changing social circumstances.

New words are introduced and new expressions replace the older ones  
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# LETTER to the EDITOR

## COP26 in Glasgow

The UN's climate change conference COP26 should address the four overarching issues related to cutting down emissions, financially supporting developing countries in moving towards sustainable development, cutting down the use of fossil fuels and regulating carbon markets. Even though there are expectations that the conference will result in groundbreaking commitments, omens suggest that the outcome might be underwhelming. It is especially so because the countries are to cut global emissions to half by 2030 and to a complete zero by 2050. But, so far, 113 states out of the total signatories of the landmark Paris Agreement are on target. The biggest problem remains one of collaboration. If history is any guide, it will be too much to hope for the 191 signatories to even be able to uphold previously agreed upon targets, let alone try and aspire to hit loftier ones.

Muaz Jafri  
Jamshoro

## Pak-US Relations

During the recent days, there has been much hullabaloo on a bill moved in US Senate, which, if approved, will pave the way for sanctions on Taliban and their supporters. Among other things, the bill, titled "Afghanistan Counterterrorism, Oversight, and Accountability Act of 2021," seeks "an assessment of support by state and non-state actors, including the Government of Pakistan" for the Taliban since 2001. The language of the bill, however, suggests that the scope of sanctions will be restricted to individuals, and not a state. The likely penalties against targeted individuals involve assets freeze (blocking their property within the US) and travel ban (making them ineligible to enter the US). Nonetheless, considering the uptick in anti-Pakistan commentary in Western media post-Kabul fall, this development isn't encouraging. It may spell the start of mutual recriminations that would end up harming Pakistan's interests more than America's. It's not ideal to have US-Pak relations head in such a direction. The two countries have limited but shared counter-terrorism and humanitarian objectives in Afghanistan. It is hoped that the two countries will move forward towards forging a mutual agreement on the way forward. It is time for a re-set.

Hafsa Batool  
Turbat

## A Fantastic Win

Pakistan has routed India in their first match in the World T20 Championship 2021. The way Pakistani players, especially Babar Azam, Muhammad Rizwan and Shaheen Shah Afridi performed, reminded us of our old glory. The win was also special because Pakistan has never beaten India in the ICC T20 World Cup before. It was encouraging to see our players genuinely looking like a force to reckon with – the one like when greats like Saeed Anwar, Inzamam ul Haq, Muhammad Yousaf, Waseem Akram and Waqar Younis used to be part of the team. Our team has been notorious of being bad chasers but under the captaincy of Babar Azam, whose presence himself has given strength to the batting line-up, this tag is also fast shedding. We now have a better combination of both batters and bowlers who can secure wins against top-ranking teams. A strong team securing wins will also help fully bring the international cricket back to the Pakistani grounds. Chairman PCB Ramiz Raja had very rightly had pointed out that once we become a world-class team, people will start lining up to play against us.

Abdullah bin Aziz  
Zafarwal

## Syed Ali Geelani

Syed Ali Geelani was not only the name of a person but he was the symbol of the 11 million mistreated people who struggled for almost 75 years. He led a nation which could sacrifice its life. He made great efforts for achieving freedom, protecting religion, security and the progress of spiritual and cultural identity. He struggled for 75 years against a brutal force; a force which has made the people of Kashmir its slave with the help of 1 million troops and political conspiracies. India misled the international community and broke its agreements only to keep its illegal occupation of Jammu and Kashmir. Kashmiris have been deprived of their right of self-determination and freedom due to this occupation. The Indian army attacks their life, property, honour, values and cultural and ideological identification. In short, everything is being damaged. The violation of human rights and the destruction of crops and villages have become their daily routine. The killing of the Muslim Kashmiris can be explained only by the word, genocide. Geelani sahib presented the case of this Kashmir with strong arguments and technique. He considered the political and religious aspects of the issue as two sides of the same coin. They couldn't be separated from each other. He faced many difficulties – house arrest, imprisonment and enmity during his long political struggle. He always stated his point of view patiently and resolutely with the grace of Allah Almighty. He invited the people to the right path in unfavourable circumstances. He remained firm and determined to his cause. He is a role model for the new generation. The study of his services and life is the best source to introduce the new generation with the objectives, mission, planning and the nature of the Kashmir movement.

Syed Atta-ul-Haq  
Rawalpindi





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SUMMARY

## GLOBAL HUNGER INDEX

2021

Magazine Desk

**The Fight against Hunger is Dangerously Off Track**

Based on current GHI projections, the world as a whole – and 47 countries in particular – will fail to achieve a low level of hunger by 2030. Conflict, climate change and the Covid-19 pandemic – three of the most powerful and toxic forces driving hunger – threaten to wipe out any progress that has been made against hunger in recent years. Violent conflict, which is deeply intertwined with hunger, shows no signs of abating. The consequences of climate change are becoming ever more apparent and costly, but the world has developed no fully effective mechanism to mitigate, much less reverse, it. And the Covid-19 pandemic, which has spiked in different parts of the world throughout 2020 and 2021, has shown just how vulnerable we are to global contagion and the associated health and economic consequences.

**Global Progress is Slowing, and Hunger Remains Stubbornly High in Some Regions**

Evidence shows current setbacks against hunger and suggests trouble ahead. Although GHI scores show that global hunger has been on the decline since 2000, progress is slowing. While the GHI score for the world fell 4.7 points, from 25.1 to 20.4, between 2006 and 2012, it has fallen just 2.5 points since 2012. After decades of decline, the global prevalence of undernourishment – one of the four indicators used to calculate GHI scores – is increasing. This shift may be a harbinger of reversals in other measures of hunger. In both Africa South of the Sahara and South Asia, hunger is considered serious. Africa South of the Sahara has the highest rates of undernourishment, child stunting and child mortality of any region of the world. South Asia's high hunger level is driven largely by child undernutrition, particularly as measured by child wasting. In the regions of Europe and Central Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, East and Southeast Asia, and West Asia and North Africa, hunger levels are low or moderate.

**Hunger Remains Serious, Alarming, or Extremely Alarming in Nearly 50 Countries**

According to the 2021 GHI, one country, Somalia, suffers from an extremely alarming level of hunger. Hunger is at alarming levels in 5 countries – Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Madagascar and Yemen – and is provisionally categorized as alarming in 4 additional countries – Burundi, Comoros, South Sudan and

Syria. Hunger has been identified as serious in 31 countries and is provisionally categorized as serious in 6 additional countries. Since 2012, hunger has increased in 10 countries with moderate, serious or alarming hunger levels, in some cases reflecting a stagnation of progress and in others signalling an intensification of an already precarious situation. Fourteen countries have achieved significant improvements in hunger, with a reduction of 25 percent or more between their 2012 and 2021 GHI scores. However, wide variations in children's nutritional status, even within countries' borders, are pervasive and can be obscured by national averages.

**Violent Conflict Drives Hunger**

The two-way links between hunger and conflict are well established. Violent conflict is destructive to virtually every aspect of a food system; from production, harvesting, processing and transport to input supply, financing,

marketing and consumption. At the same time, heightened food insecurity can contribute to violent conflict. Without resolving food insecurity, it is difficult to build sustainable peace, and without peace, the likelihood of ending global hunger is minimal.

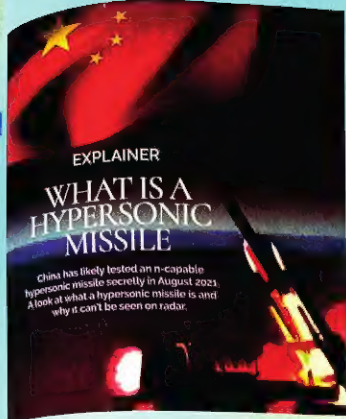
**Breaking the Links between Conflict and Hunger Can Advance Both Food Security and Peace**

It is possible to begin to break the destructive links between conflict and hunger and to build resilience, even amid conflict and extreme vulnerability. Working together, actors such as

states, community groups, local and international nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and United Nations agencies can create conditions for food security and sustainable peace. Effectively integrating a peace-building lens into the creation of resilient food systems and a food security lens into peace building will require that external actors have a well-grounded knowledge of the context and act with sensitivity to the realities of ongoing conflicts. It is important to strengthen locally-led action and reflect local concerns and aspirations while working through partnerships that bring together diverse actors and their respective knowledge. Funding should be flexible, long term, and adaptable to fluid fragile and conflict-affected contexts. Finally, it is crucial to address conflict on a political level and prosecute those who use starvation as a weapon of war. ■

The 2021 Global Hunger Index (GHI) points to a dire hunger situation in a world coping with multiple crises.

Progress toward Zero Hunger by 2030, already far too slow, is showing signs of stagnating or even being reversed.



## EXPLAINER

# WHAT IS A HYPERSONIC MISSILE

China has likely tested an H-capable hypersonic missile secretly in August 2021. A look at what a hypersonic missile is and why it can't be seen on radar.



## EXPLAINER HYPERSONIC MISSILES

# WHY CAN'T THEY BE SEEN ON RADAR

Hypersonic missiles are difficult to detect as they travel much faster than other ballistic and cruise missiles. They do not follow a predictable arc as they travel. The speed makes them hard to track compared to traditional missile tech.



# GLIDE MISSILE VS CRUISE MISSILE

Hypersonic missiles come in two variants: hypersonic cruise missiles and hypersonic glide vehicles.



## Hypersonic Glide Vehicle

The warheads are attached to a glide vehicle which re-enters the atmosphere and cruises to the target under its own momentum.

## Hypersonic Cruise Missile

A non-ballistic variant that reaches its target with the help of a high-speed jet engine.



# WHAT IS A HYPERSONIC MISSILE



Hypersonic missiles are much faster and more agile than normal ones.



They fly at lower altitudes and can achieve more than **five times the speed of sound**.



A hypersonic missile is **manoeuvrable, making it harder for missile defence systems** (which are designed to target the fixed parabolic trajectory of a ballistic missile) to intercept them and to defend against.

# MISSILE VS MISSILE

How fast can cruise missiles fly?

SPEED OF SOUND (Mach 1)

Subsonic

Supersonic

Hypersonic



Mach:

0.8

Mach:

2-3

Mach:

>5

# RECENT TESTS



## China

China tested a nuclear-capable hypersonic missile that flew round the earth before speeding towards its target.

According to reports this test was carried out in August 2021 and the missile missed its target by about 30 km.



## North Korea

North Korea tested a hypersonic missile called Hwasong-8. It is a short-range missile and was fired into the sea in September 2021.

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# Global Leadership, Peace and Conflict Resolution Beyond the Lens of Rationality

Mahboob Khawaja, PhD



**Leaders speak words written by specialists but see no irony in their own actions**

The United Nations was evolved to act as a tangible force for change and future-making to ensure the systematic

safeguard of humanity from the "scourge of wars," global peace, human security and a sustainable future for all on this planet. Not so, you watched the leaders speaking from the UN General Assembly podium uttering third-party written words of wisdom and forbearance with overweening pride and prejudice in their own agenda. More often when they claim honour and achievements, they dip into crass materialism, ignorance, violations of basic human rights, disregard of peace and security of mankind, inherent economic greed and perpetuated violence against the vulnerable and innocent inhabitants of this Earth. Our contemporary acclaimed political morality, if there is

any, to a critical perceptive eye, leans toward degeneration of the humanity, and leadership claims and counter-claims sound irrational and deceptive in pursuit of unbridled egoism and political power to deny reason and logic for transformation of much-needed change and a peaceful future.

We the People of the globe must realize the truth and urgency at a time of challenging transformation and our sensual abilities for survival under circumstances of extreme geo-political problems — continuous wars, Covid-19 pandemic, climate change and violations of human rights, as well as dangers of insane cruelty in policies and practices to endanger our own future on this planet. The global institutions do not operate on human morality and intellect. The disclosure of 'Pandora

Papers' reflects that reality.

The current global systems of political governance and leadership are overwhelmingly elite-oriented, and all

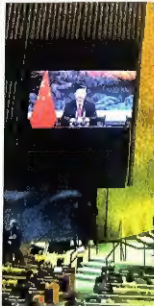
"And if we do act, in however small a way, we don't have to wait for some grand utopian future. The future is an infinite succession of presents, and to live now, as we think human beings should live, in defiance of all that is bad around us, is itself a marvelous victory."  
— Howard Zinn (Late American historian and distinguished scholar of peace, justice and humanity)

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global institutions are operated by pre-screened elite leaders who are disconnected to any relationship 'to the people, by the people and for the people' norm. In a rational sense, We the People of the planet have become lifeless digits, numbers and seamless legal entities to be used when needed at the ballot box, and nothing else. What has changed from the authoritarianism of Hitler, Mussolini and the European-engineered two world wars killing millions and millions for their own ideas and ideas of political governance? One wonders if the advanced and secretive space weapons will be the "weapons of mass destruction" in a next overdue war or would it take the much-possessed nuclear arsenals to extinguish life from this planet? It appears contentious to predict science- and technology-based criteria to illustrate a logical definition of the endgame between the conventional age of life and the beginning of an unknown new age of something beyond human imagination and history.

#### Contemporary global affairs under rational lens and beyond

Looking at the contemporary world of acclaimed democracies, peace and national security of the states, almost everywhere frustration, cynicism and political endemic persist. Political reasoning, enforced by unilateral elite judgements, views humanity just in a passing phrase for noble ideals of democracy and systems of governance devoid of legitimacy and public interest. Global leaders speak loud as actors at the UN General Assembly but lack knowledge and wisdom to understand the pains and anguish of the victimized humanity. George Floyd continues to echo his voice across the US mainstream political activism: "I can't breathe... I can't breathe."

George Floyd is not dead; he is living in the living conscience and soul of the masses all over the world. You know that Black Lives Matter is not a political slogan but a reality and demand of human conscience. Imagine how 10 million people of Kashmir must be breathing under

locked-up, forcible occupation by Indian occupying forces. You won't hear their desperate voices because of continuous lockdowns under the guise of democracy, security and bogus 'terrorism'. Pakistanis watch them as spectators without any moral leadership. Syria, Yemen and Iraq are bombed and masses are crushed every day — what happened to the UN peace and conflict management responsibility? The new Arab pharaohs kept in bondage by the America-Europe alliances offer no hope of freedom and peace to the masses. Palestinians are flogged mentally and physically by Israeli security strategies to disrupt their freedom and national identity. They are without any proactive or intelligent leadership to escape out of the box of inhumanity. Almost one million Rohingya refugees ask patiently why they were evicted

forcibly from their homes in Myanmar. Do the world leaders care about the real human sufferings?

It is awful and a tragedy of conscience to be speaking of politics when mankind urgently needs an effective cure for the Covid-19 pandemic. We are One Humanity; natural disasters and fatalities know not any borders, flags and nationalities but surge like wildfires as being witnessed in the Covid-19 pandemic

worldwide. Not so, America and the EU, still buried in the past, would not consider Russian Covid-19 vaccine — already prepared and administered — or Chinese vaccine because they are manufactured by the politically opposing sides. Again political absolutism heightens animosity and hatred rather than human understanding and cooperation for a precious cause of saving the lives on Earth. To save life of one human being is to safeguard the whole of humanity. We are all born equal One Humanity — the Divine Message of Al-Qur'an clarifies the truth: "Proclaim in the name of thy Lord and Cherisher, Who created, created man (human being) out of a (mere) clot of congealed blood. Proclaim, and thy Lord is Most Bountiful, He Who taught (the use of) the Pen. Taught man (human being) that which he knew not."





Leaders at the annual UNGA session compete for fame and honour but share no creative or practical ideas and workable ideals to protect the rights of humanity. Are we living and witnessing another world of global redundancy and foolishness where survival of the fittest is granted but masses are denied the reasoned and legitimate proposition of a sustainable future? Were these not the historic factors leading to the two World Wars?

**Are we witnessing a decadent culture of human morality and intelligence?**

We the People must be conscientious and attentive to a moral and intellectual compass of global political governance. We are moral human beings - a Creation of God created for a purpose in human life, enriched with intellect and wisdom much different than other animals moving on this earth. Our life, our rights, our dignity, our peace and security, our planet and our future cannot be traded in at the UN forum. It is obvious that facts and truths vary in time and space, human destiny and casualty but human consciousness is waking up to the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, defining the world of destiny and pulsation and the world of global conflicts and tensions - the world as we see it linking us all into the nature of things of which we are an essential part; We the People at the heart of the God-given universe, must seek our unity in changing fortunes of time and space or we could be destroyed by our obsessed ignorance and arrogance governing the global politics and human affairs. Leaders failed to lead us to any viable destiny for future-making. We must use an inward moral, intellectual and spiritual eye as being the Chief Creation of God to articulate a new culture of human communication to resolve problems across all the people and lands and to accord equal rights, peace and security to all, not the few, arbitrarily conducting the UN's speaking forums. Recall that during the two World Wars across Europe, millions and millions of innocent civilians perished in aerial bombings,

political tyranny and forcible displacements. History is living, not dead. We the 21<sup>st</sup>-century conscientious and informed citizens must realize to eliminate insanity, tyranny of destruction, violations of human rights, ethnic conflicts and religious bigotry. Moses, Jesus and Mubam-mad (PBUH) preached the unity of mankind, respect and tolerance in adversity. None of the Messengers of God taught evil, intolerance and disrespect against the people. If we are witnessing it in the 21<sup>st</sup>-century liberal democ-racy, it cannot flatten the races and immature leadership, it cannot flatten the moral, intellectual and political landscape as "No Man's land" of any superpower(s) or elsewhere. Violence, killings and maltreatment of the citizens cannot be transformed into virtue of democracy or clash of fanaticism disguised in any political ideals of the individuals, political agendas or so-called leaders. Late Professor Howard Zinn envisaged the future of mankind in the following words of wisdom.

"To be hopeful in bad times is not just foolishly romantic. It is based on the fact that human history is a history not only of cruelty, but also of compassion, sacrifice, courage and kindness. What we choose to emphasize in this complex history will determine our lives. If we see only the worst, it destroys our capacity to do something. If we remember those times and places - and there are so many - where people have behaved magnificently, this gives us the energy to act, and at least the possibility of sending this spinning top of a world in a different direction." ■

*Dr. Mahboob Khawaja specializes in international affairs-global security, peace and conflict-resolution with keen interest in Islamic-Western comparative cultures and civilizations. He is the author of several publications including the latest: One Humanity and the Remaking of Global Peace, Security and Conflict Resolution. Lambert Academic Publications Germany.*



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# 20th SCO SUMMIT

Dr M. Usmani

**T**he 20th Heads of State Summit of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) took place in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, on 16-17 September 2021. During the meeting, the participants mainly focussed their discussions on managing the situation arising from the exit of the US and its allied forces from Afghanistan and to galvanise regional support for war-ravaged Afghanistan to regain peace and economic and security stability under Afghan Taliban rule. The sideline meetings between the heads of states and their accompanying delegations also used the occasion to explore other avenues of bilateral and multilateral economic and security cooperation in accordance with the charter of SCO.

In this first SCO heads of state summit after the Taliban takeover in Afghanistan, the leaders asked the Afghan Taliban to yield power to a 'more inclusive government' and, at the same time, reminded the West in general and the United States in particular, that it was their responsibility to help avert a humanitarian disaster in Afghanistan after ending their 20-year presence in the country. Leaders of important regional countries concurred with Pakistan that the war-ravaged country should not be abandoned after the Taliban takeover. This meeting spells hope for both Pakistan and Afghanistan because of Pakistan's proactive diplomacy, which has become the need of the hour in the wake of many uncanny happenings that have turned things topsy-turvy and destabilised the region vis-à-vis Afghan imbroglio. It also helped Pakistan to play a greater diplomatic role in galvanising regional support for helping war-ravaged Afghanistan regain peace, economic and security stability under Afghan Taliban rule.

## Who said what?

At the summit, leaders spoke about the need to seek Taliban cooperation and ask for an inclusive government in the country. They were cautious about Afghanistan's new interim cabinet, formed almost exclusively of ethnic Pashtuns. The main base of Taliban support, Pashtuns comprise less than half of Afghanistan's population. Most of the other major ethnic

groups have close linguistic and ethnic ties to Tajikistan, Iran and Uzbekistan.

Here's a look at what leaders of important regional countries said at the summit:

### 1. Russia

Speaking via video link at the summit, Russian President Vladimir Putin said that although the Afghanistan government formed by the Taliban is not representative and inclusive, yet it is essential to work with it, as he stressed on the need to coordinate the stance of other countries on the issue of recognition. "This is an interim government, as the Taliban themselves say, and it cannot be really called representative or inclusive," he said, adding that there are no members of other ethnic groups in it. "However, it appears that it is necessary to work with it too. As for recognition, I believe, and I agree with those who spoke about it, that we need to coordinate our stance on the issue," Putin said.

Putin said, "Now our organisation is facing an acute task of pursuing a common, agreed

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line, taking into account the serious risks associated with the aggravation of the situation in Afghanistan after the hasty withdrawal – well, it can be even called an escape – of the US forces and their NATO allies from this country."

He stressed that the main part of the "expenses related to Afghanistan's post-conflict rebuilding should be borne by the US and NATO countries which are directly responsible for the grave consequences of their prolonged presence in the country."

He called on Washington to unfreeze assets of the Afghan central bank, which have been blocked since the Taliban takeover, saying without access to the funds, Afghanistan's new rulers would be tempted to turn to the drugs and arms trade.

He urged the Taliban to curb drug-trafficking and fight against extremist groups while highlighting that the SCO should "use its potential" to "stimulate the new Afghan authorities" in fulfilling their promises on normalising life and bringing security in Afghanistan.

## 2. China

Saying that Afghanistan's history has ushered in a new page after the withdrawal of foreign troops, and that it still faces many difficult tasks and needs the support and help from the international community, especially regional countries, Chinese President Xi Jinping called for a stable government in Afghanistan. "SCO members should better use the SCO-Afghanistan Contact Group and other platforms to promote the peaceful transition in Afghanistan, guide it to build an inclusive political structure, adopt prudent and moderate domestic and foreign policies, resolutely fight all forms of terrorism, live in amity with its neighbours and truly embark on a path of peace, stability and development," Xi noted.

President Xi further stated that SCO member states should have 'confidence in our system and refuse sanctimonious preaching from those who feel they have the right to lecture us'. He said, "We should maintain firm confidence in our systems, reject condescending lecturing, and firmly support countries in exploring development paths and governance models that are compatible with their national conditions," and added that "We should support each other in steadily advancing important political agenda including domestic elections. We must never allow any external interference in the domestic affairs of countries in our region under whatever pretext and we should keep the future of our countries' development and progress firmly in our own hands."

President Xi said "certain countries" should assume their due responsibilities for Afghanistan's future development, having been

## It No Longer Takes Two to Tango: Afghanistan and the SCO

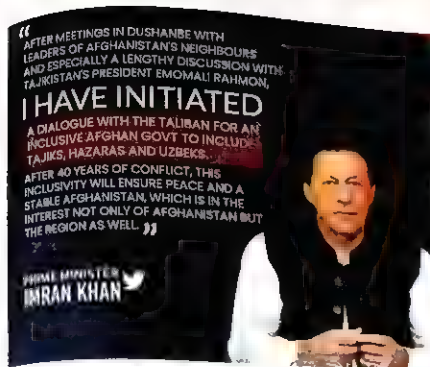
Dr Rabia Akhter (A non-resident senior fellow at the Atlantic Council's South Asia Center)

What stands to threaten SCO's collective vision of socioeconomic development is an Afghanistan under Taliban rule, inching towards an abyss. While the abyss will stare back at the Taliban, Afghanistan's immediate and larger neighbourhood will not be able to escape the disastrous consequences for regional peace and stability once that happens. It is heartening to note that Prime Minister Imran Khan, in his address at the 20th anniversary meeting of the SCO, informed member states about Pakistan's vision of peaceful coexistence by avoiding blood politics, however, it is not certain if all SCO countries share Pakistan's vision of cooperation instead of confrontation, especially with respect to the current Afghanistan crisis.

The Dushanbe Declaration, adopted at the SCO summit, included a section 3.1 on Afghanistan and regional security. Member states reaffirmed their support for "the emergence of Afghanistan as an independent, neutral, united, democratic and peaceful State, free of terrorism, war and drugs..." (and) that it is critical to have an inclusive Government in Afghanistan, with representatives from all ethnic, religious and political groups of Afghan society." While the other members played it safe, Pakistan, China, Iran and Russia sought accountability from Washington for gifting the region with a chaotic Afghanistan post-US withdrawal and demanded US engagement with the Taliban for the reconstruction of Afghanistan. And, rightly so! Why should only the countries in Afghanistan's immediate neighbourhood share the burden of ensuring that there is no economic collapse there? The United States needs to be held accountable for \$2 trillion dollars spent in Afghanistan with nothing to show for it after twenty years. Despite \$87 billion spent on training the Afghan military and police force, 300,000-strong and armed with the world's best military equipment, they could not survive direct contact with 60,000 Taliban fighters beyond eleven days and surrendered. The United States spent \$24 billion on economic development in Afghanistan but the economy inherited by the Taliban is in shambles, pushing the country into a disastrous humanitarian crisis.

Rebuilding Afghanistan, rehabilitating its economy and ensuring that the Taliban understand what 'inclusive' means according to Western ideals, is not the burden of SCO countries, especially Pakistan, China, Russia and Iran, to bear. If the Taliban are reaching out to the rest of the international community and trying to understand how to translate 'inclusiveness' into a language they would understand before they adopt it does the rest of the world have an inclusive plan to assimilate the Taliban not only regionally, but globally? It takes two to tango.

Afghanistan's reconstruction, development, governance and humanitarian relief is not a one-way street. The Taliban have nothing at stake. They can go back to their old ways. But can the world around them afford to regress to the abyss that stared at us twenty years ago? Time is of the essence and it would take collective efforts involving multilateral stakeholders, especially those responsible for the chaos, to lead from the front.



"instigators" of the situation. He also urged "relevant parties" in Afghanistan to eradicate terrorism and promised to provide more help to the war-torn nation. It was necessary to "encourage Afghanistan to put in place a broad-based and inclusive political framework" and to "resolutely fight all forms of terrorism" and live in peace with its neighbours. He was of the opinion that Afghanistan should be guided to be more open and inclusive, and pursue moderate domestic and foreign policies.

### 3. Pakistan

In his address Prime Minister of Pakistan, Imran Khan, said that the Taliban must fulfil the promises they have made, and called on the international community to stand with the people of the war-torn country. He said that it was also important to ensure respect for the rights of all Afghans while ensuring that it is never again a safe haven for terrorists. He said that Pakistan, which had suffered due to the spillover of conflict and instability in the neighbouring country, had an interest in a peaceful and stable Afghanistan.

"We will continue to support a stable, sovereign and prosperous Afghanistan," he said. Commenting on the situation in Afghanistan, PM Khan said that a "new reality" had been established after the Taliban takeover and withdrawal of foreign troops.

That all this happened without bloodshed, without civil war, and without a mass exodus of refugees, should be a matter of relief. "It is now in the international community's collective interest to ensure that there is no renewed conflict in Afghanistan and the security situation is stabilised,"



he said.

The prime minister said that preventing a humanitarian crisis and an economic meltdown were "equally urgent priorities".

"We must remember that the previous government depended

## Iran's

### Acceptance to the SCO

The headline from the summit was the decision to admit Iran as a full permanent member. After decades serving as an observer, Iran joins the SCO in its broad agenda of regional security, economic and humanitarian cooperation. In Tehran, the move is largely touted as potential to join markets which represent 20% of world's GDP. While Iran has hopes of strengthening economic cooperation within SCO, key members, such as Russia and China, will not jeopardize trade with the United States. Europe and Arab states while it remains an FATF-sanctioned state. Iran's acceptance was a decisive move for an organization known for its member states' competing interests as well as disparate economies and governance structures.

All parties expressed a commitment to combatting the "three forces" of terrorism, separatism and extremism, and the recent joint military exercises were part of SCO's ongoing counterterrorism drills and efforts to create more interoperability between its countries' militaries.

China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) continues to gain ground. While primarily focused on infrastructure-building activities, the principles of BRI include "five links": policy coordination, infrastructure building, unimpeded trade, financial integration, and people-to-people exchanges. Taken together, the five links reflect Beijing's vision of a Sino-centric regional order. While it is impossible to anticipate how this unprecedented outflow of cash and diplomatic ambition will ultimately shape the region, it is worth noting that Beijing strengthened central party hold through infrastructure development in out-flung regions.

The clock is running on a strong potential for a humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan. The Taliban have shown little ability to govern a nation. Winter's confluence with the harsh curtailment of half the population's economic and educational activity has a dangerous trajectory. Meanwhile, most SCO members want tight borders to stave off the "three forces". China does not want Afghanistan to become a safe haven for Uyghurs and has heightened its concerns about militants on its northwestern border.

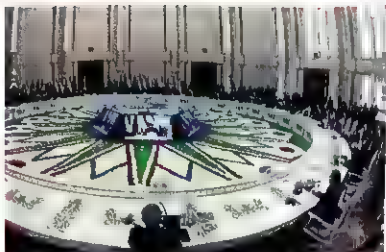
The great game continues. In the aftermath of the US withdrawal from Afghanistan, Washington is focused on aggressive counterterrorism in the region. Beijing is strengthened in its regional influence yet it must work with Moscow to chart how two major powers may cooperate in a restive region known for its intractable conflicts.



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heavily on foreign aid and its removal could lead to economic collapse," he said, adding that now was the moment to stand with the Afghans "firmly and unequivocally".

He commended the United Nations Secretary General and UN agencies for mobilising support for humanitarian assistance, and said that Pakistan was also playing its part in aiding evacuation efforts and providing support.

But perhaps most critical of all is the plight of Afghanistan's people who have suffered endless torment for over 20 years. In the war, during which we heard essentially only of US casualties, over 47,000 Afghan civilians were killed along with at least 6000 security and police personnel. The suffering has been extreme. It now threatens to take economic form with Afghan accounts frozen by the US putting the country in danger of sinking into poverty. The UN has decided to send its staff back into Afghanistan to try and deal with the humanitarian crisis developing there. How they will do so is not yet clear. There is no

doubt that Afghan people deserve peace. This should be the outlook of all partners engaged in the Afghanistan question and seeking an outcome from what is happening there now. Pakistan can be a key player in this and as its distance from the US grows, the question is what alliances Pakistan will now strike and how much it can do to persuade the Taliban to ensure peace in Afghanistan and bring in place a government that is recognised by the



"Going forward, we believe positive engagement of the international community with Afghanistan is extremely important. "There is a rare opportunity to finally end the 40 years of war in Afghanistan. This moment should not be squandered," he said.

He said that it would be unwise to spread negativity or indulge in propaganda at this critical juncture. "This will only serve to undermine the prospects for peace."

#### Analysis

At talks taking place around the world and in statements by world leaders, it has been made quite clear that Pakistan, Iran, Russia, China and other Central Asian nations will need to play a key role in determining the political future of Afghanistan. How they do this will depend a great deal on the attitude of the Taliban government and how it chooses to address matters. So far, its role has not been entirely encouraging, with secondary schools for girls being closed to them and women on the streets demanding rights from the Taliban regime. This is a concern that has been heard around the world.

world so that the international aid required by the Afghan people and the recognition they also need in order to live normal lives can continue. ■

*The writer is a Lahore-based freelance columnist, having special interest in global affairs.*



# Eurasia in the 21st Century

## Factors defining the face of the new Eurasia



### Agreements with the EAEU

- FTA agreements in force
- Preparing to sign an FTA agreement
- Negotiations are underway to conclude a FTA agreement
- An agreement on trade and economic cooperation in force



**Large infrastructure projects**  
Large Eurasian energy union, providing for the creation of a unified system.

- oil and gas pipelines
- consolidation of industrial supplies of electricity
- diversification of power grids

## Major projects and initiatives in Eurasia

- a set of integration mechanisms in the field of digital economy and ICT, building a "Common space of trust"
- a network of interregional and cross-border links, involving the development of border infrastructure and the creation of favorable conditions for doing business
- network of trade routes and channels of people-to-people contacts

### Best and Read Initiative:

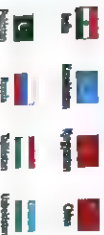
- railway network
  - land network
  - pipeline network
- which dock at different ports and logistics terminals in over 60 countries

### Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU)



Common customs tariff

### Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)



### Collective Security Treaty Organisation (CSTO)



### Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)







It his first address to the United Nations General Assembly, US President Joe Biden declared a "new era" for US diplomacy and repeatedly reassured US allies that his presidency would not echo the chaos of Trump's four years in office. Still, his speech comes after a series of international blunders that have undermined the US's credibility abroad. In September, for example, relations between the US and France soured over the formation of AUKUS pact that will let Australia build nuclear-powered submarines using technology provided by the US. This deal came at the cost of Australia's \$90bn submarine deal with France and led the latter to recall its diplomats from the former for the first time in American history. Plus, many of America's NATO allies have also been frustrated by the Biden administration's handling of troop withdrawal from Afghanistan. So, there remains little doubt that some of Biden's foreign policy priorities bear a close resemblance to Trump's agenda. His "foreign policy for the middle class," which ties US diplomacy to peace, security and prosperity at home, has been described as a dressed-up version of Trump's emphasis on putting US interests above its global commitments. Biden also followed through on Trump's deal to withdraw from

Afghanistan without consulting or coordinating with Washington's NATO allies—and has paid a political cost for the collapse of the Afghan government and chaotic evacuation that ensued. And on other issues—like Trump's controversial tariffs on European steel and aluminum imports, his approach to Cuba and his immigration and border policies—Biden has not demonstrated any urgency to make immediate changes.

When President Donald Trump, in 2020, signed a trade deal with China after years of escalatory tariffs, then-presidential candidate Joe Biden blasted the agreement. "China is the big winner of Trump's 'phase-one' trade deal with Beijing," Biden said after the agreement was finalized. He wasn't alone. Many trade experts at the time believed the purchasing targets Beijing was required to meet were highly unrealistic. Sure enough, China's compliance has been less than ideal. According to the Peterson Institute for International Economics, China is roughly 70 percent of the way there with two months left to go.

Yet despite Biden's past comments about the accord, not to mention the tariffs that set the stage for the deal, the White House isn't fully breaking with the pact. While US trade representative Katherine Tai remarked recently that some exceptions may apply for corporations suffering from supply chain issues, the tariffs on \$350 billion worth

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# JOE BIDEN'S FOREIGN POLICY

**Friends and Foes  
Claim Echoes of Trump**



of Chinese goods will remain in effect for the foreseeable future. This is a far cry from the days of 2019, when Biden was faulting those very same tariffs for increasing costs to the American consumer. This isn't the first time President Biden has hewed closer to the previous administration than many would have anticipated. Indeed, on some issues of notable importance, Biden's foreign policy looks a lot like Trump's

foreign policy.

Take Iran, for instance. During the campaign, Biden correctly eviscerated Trump's decision to withdraw the United States from the nuclear deal and reimpose comprehensive economic sanctions on the Iranian economy. He objected to the move because the maximum pressure strategy has proven about as smart as shooting one's foot with a shotgun. While the Iranians lost out on tens of billions of dollars in oil revenue and saw traditional customers scurry away from their market, the pressure tactics simply made the Iran nuclear problem worse.

Iran didn't bow down to US demands as the Mike Pompeo and John Bolton of the world had confidently assumed. They chose instead to install faster centrifuges, frustrate the monitoring powers of international nuclear inspectors, and increase their stockpile of enriched uranium by a factor of 10. Iranian foreign policy also became noticeably more aggressive, with cargo ships in the Persian Gulf damaged by mines, vessels captured by Iranian commandos, missiles fired at Saudi oil infrastructure, and Iran-backed Shia militias in Iraq taking aim at US soldiers with rockets and drones.

Trump's maximum pressure strategy, however, is still in

### How Biden can avoid Trump's mistakes with China

The more things change in terms of control over Washington, the more they will stay the same in terms of US economic policy toward China. That was the unstated message of a speech by US Trade Representative Katherine Tai in which she expressed a view of China's role in global commerce that was far better articulated, but no less jaundiced, than that of President Donald Trump.

In January 2020, just before the coronavirus pandemic jolted the US economy, Mr Trump had reached a kind of truce with China, agreeing to reduce some of the retaliatory tariffs he had earlier imposed on \$360 billion in Chinese goods, in return for Beijing's promise to buy \$200 billion in US products while adjusting its more blatant protectionist practices. Treating this deal as a point of continuity between the Trump and Biden administrations, Ms Tai took China to task for failing to keep its side of the bargain and offered no substantial letup in Mr Trump's tariffs. Instead, she portrayed the two countries as locked in a long-term struggle for global market share, which, 'due to Chinese bad faith', requires the United States 'to deploy all tools and explore the development of new ones.'

It's hard to disagree with Ms Tai's take, since China's behaviour as thoroughly refuted the hopes, once widespread in both US political parties, that trade would mutate China into a pillar of the rules-based global order. Not only is Chinese President Xi Jinping doubling down on a state-run economic model, he is also bullying neighbours, most recently through a swarm of military rights into democratic Taiwan's air defense zone. Clearly, there can be no business as usual with Mr Xi's China — also engaged in

a cultural genocide of its Uyghur minority.

At the same time, there are undeniable costs — to Americans — of the tariffs Mr Trump imposed and President Biden will keep. In July, Treasury Secretary Janet L. Yellen candidly acknowledged that tariffs 'are taxes on consumers.' The ultimate goal of US policy — however difficult to achieve — should be mutually beneficial trade liberalization over the long run, as opposed to Mr Trump's simplistic notion that the United States could somehow arm-twist its way to a trade surplus with China and everyone else. Ms Tai indicated that US importers will be able to apply for selective exemptions from the tariffs, but that empowers lawyers and bureaucrats, not consumers.

The most powerful 'tool' the United States might yet wield in negotiations with the world's second-largest economy could be a united front with other countries that share our concerns. To her credit, Ms Tai promised to 'work closely with our allies and like-minded partners,' and touted a new United States-European Union Trade and Technology Council, which is fine as far as it goes — the United States is still talking with Europe about ending Mr Trump's tariffs on aluminum and steel.

What could have created a truly impactful US-led counterweight to Beijing was the 12-nation Trans-Pacific Partnership that President Barack Obama negotiated toward the end of his presidency. Mr Trump spurned it and Mr Biden, bowing to protectionist sentiment in his party, shows no signs of reviving it. The president should change that, or else he'll be retaining not only what his predecessor got right about China — but also his mistakes.

*Courtesy: Washington Post*



effect. While the US is negotiating with Tehran in an attempt to orchestrate a mutual return to the nuclear deal (or at least was negotiating with Iran until Ebrahim Raisi was elected in June), not a single Trump-era sanction has been lifted. Transactions with the manufacturing, banking, energy, mineral, automobile and construction sectors within Iran are still prohibited, and any country that seeks to dabble in these areas is liable to incur stiff penalties — including being locked out of the American financial system.

Or consider Venezuela, another target of the Trump administration's maximum pressure campaign. Between 2018 and 2020, President Trump imposed a series of ever-stronger economic restrictions on the Venezuelan economy for the purpose of pressuring strongman Nicolás Maduro to step aside. Those sanctions included everything from blocking Venezuelan government assets within American jurisdiction to penalizing any entity that shipped, purchased, imported or did business with the Venezuelan oil and gold industries. In 2019, Trump all but declared Maduro persona non grata, bestowing the role of Venezuela's legitimate representative onto Juan Guaidó, the head of the National Assembly.

Like the maximum pressure campaign against Iran, though, the maximum pressure campaign against Venezuela was a huge, heaping pile of failure. Maduro is firmly entrenched in Caracas, while the Venezuelan opposition is divided and listless. Despite these failures, the Biden administration has chosen to implement precisely the same strategy. The only exception to the rule has been the White House's loosening of restrictions on cooking gas to Venezuela this past spring, a relatively modest concession on behalf of a suffering Venezuelan population. Everything else, including the prohibition of gasoline imports into Venezuela, remains in effect.

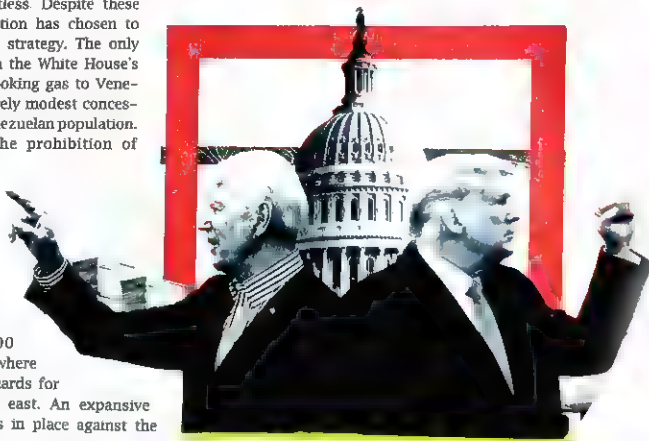
Ditto on Syria. In January 2021, Biden inherited a Trump-era Syrian policy that can charitably be described as messy inertia. When Trump vacated the White House, approximately 1,000 American troops were in Syria, where they were acting as security guards for Syria's small oil fields in the east. An expansive economic sanctions regime was in place against the



Syrian government, one so strong that it prevented countries in the region from participating in Syria's post-war reconstruction.

Nearly 10 months into Biden's term, absolutely nothing has changed. Close to 1,000 US forces remain stationed in Eastern Syria. The stringent sanctions regime enacted under Trump is still being enforced. And the pie-in-the-sky, fairytale dreamworld objective guiding US policy — the establishment of a mutually agreed-upon interim authority on the road to free, open, and honest democratic elections — is as alive today as it was a year ago. American foreign policy in 2021, indubitably, looks quite similar to foreign policy in 2020. At best, the changes have been marginal. ■

*The writer is a member of staff.*







Trump and Biden have made mentioning of Indo-Pacific region as a defining feature of their foreign policies. Although there is no consensus among regional countries on the geographical area of this region, China has never used the term 'Indo-Pacific' in its official communications. China considers this diplomatic jargon a loaded term, that's why President Xi Jinping has always expressed his repugnance towards its reference. China views it as an instrument of the foreign policy agenda of the United States and its regional allies to further their strategic ambition of containing China. India and Japan also have different geographical interpretations and consider Indo-Pacific encapsulating two continents - Asia and Africa - and a confluence of two oceans - Indian and Pacific.

Indo-Pacific region enjoys an undisputedly central role in the international economy, politics, security and climate mitigation and adaptation. Going by what the United States considers Indo-Pacific, seven of the ten largest standing armies can be found here. One-third of global shipping lanes pass through the South China Sea. The 38 countries that are part of this region have 44% of the Earth's total surface area and are home to more than 64% of the world's population. Moreover, Indo-Pacific contributes more than 62% of the world's total GDP, and 50% of global trade traverses through the waters of this region. Militarily, this region has many flashpoints. Territorial and maritime disputes in the South and East China seas, Taiwan and North Korea can serve as a potential source of armed conflicts and can heighten US-China security competition and rivalry. Provided that the Indo-Pacific region has the world's most crucial sea lines of communications (SLOCs), world's most populous countries that offer lucrative markets and the world's finest global commons in the form of the vast stretch of central Pacific Ocean, the Indo-Pacific is adjudged to be the cornerstone of global politics and economy. The critical significance of the Indo-Pacific region has made it a battlefield of geostrategic competition and the world's economic giants - China and the United States - are taking measures (and counter-measures) to carve their independent spheres of influence. The intensification of diplomatic, political and economic competition is fast taking the shape of a cold war, and a set of multilateral and bilateral actions in recent months has further set the ground that can potentially lead towards a full-blown-out cold war between China and the USA. The potential flashpoints have been discussed in the following paragraphs:



The rapid increase in the heavily publicized military drills simulating an invasion of Taiwan and surge in air incursion into Taiwan's Air Defense Identification Zone over the past few months on the part of China have caused global concerns and raised alarm bells over its forcible reunification. Historically, Taiwan, an island separated from mainland China by a strait, has always been under the rule of various Chinese dynasties. Japan ruled this island briefly (1895-1945) and surrendered to the Republic of China after Second World War. The Republic of China was then under the nationalist Kuomintang party which later suffered defeat at the hands of communist troops led by Mao Zedong. Chiang Kai-shek and remnant leadership and troops of Kuomintang's government took refuge in Taiwan and laid the foundation of the Republic of China in 1949.

From 1949 to 1971, the Republic of China (ROC) kept on representing both Taiwan and mainland China at international platforms including the UN Security Council. The international community switched diplomatic recognition to Beijing in 1971 and thus ROC was deprived of recognition. Since then, the number of countries that recognize Taiwan as a sovereign country has fallen to 15. Beijing considers Taiwan its breakaway province that must be



retaken, even by force, if necessary. In early 1980s, Beijing offered Taipei "One Country, Two Systems" governance which it rejected and instead reiterated to maintain a distinctively independent democratic political system. Their bilateral ties nosedived in 2016 when the Democratic Progressive Party of Taiwan won the election and pro-independence current president Tsai Ing-wen took over. She openly advocated for independence from China and her landslide re-election in 2020 further strained the bilateral ties.

China takes any outreach to Taiwan as a violation of its territorial integrity and interference in its internal matters. The US has practiced somewhat caution vis-à-vis Taiwan, and avoided confrontation with China. Successive US administrations adhered to the One-China policy in acknowledgment of Beijing's stance and this policy has been the bedrock of US-China relations. But President Trump stretched it to the maximum limit and established

closer ties, albeit unofficial, with Taiwan. He ramped up arms sales for defensive purposes, sent senior officials to Taiwan, and lifted long-held restrictions on contacts between American and Taiwanese officials. Throughout his tenure, Trump repeatedly warned China that any move to annex Taiwan would be of paramount concern to the United States. President Biden followed in his footsteps to pressure China over the issues of human rights, Hong Kong, trade disputes and Taiwan. In his first public comment on Taiwan, President Biden announced his commitment to Taiwan's defence as "rock-solid".

In response to a series of US provocations and persistent outreach to Taiwan, China has ratcheted up narrative and started to assert militarily so as to keep Taiwanese pro-independence leadership at bay. In the last few weeks, China has made frequent large-scale incursions - 150 sorties in a few weeks - and deliberately flared up the tensions. It even sent nuclear-capable fighter jets into the air defence zone. In the words of the Taiwanese Defense Ministry, the tensions between Beijing and Taipei are at their worst in the last 40 years. On October 9, 2021, President Xi Jinping, in his address to the event marking the 110th anniversary of the Revolution of 1911 that overthrew China's Qing Dynasty, maintained that the historical task of complete reunification must be fulfilled, and will definitely be fulfilled. He vowed to bring Taiwan under One Country, Two Systems on the pattern of Hong Kong. Though President Biden pledged to honour US' long-held One-China policy, in his telephonic exchange with President Xi on October 5, 2021, to defuse tension between Beijing and Taipei, the US commitment to the defence of Taiwan would continue to be a lingering dispute between their two countries and would remain a flashpoint with potential to intensify their rivalry.

South China Sea (SCS) is one of the biggest flashpoints in the Indo-Pacific region. This conflict involves China, several of its neighbours, and the United States.

The SCS is a 3.5-million-km<sup>2</sup> patch of water that is strategically and economically one of the most important waterways in the world. As much as 40% of the world's liquefied natural gas (LNG) passes through this Sea and the volume of trade that sails through its waters is worth \$3 trillion. Given these mind-boggling numbers, there is no wonder that China considers the SCS in the SCS extremely important for its survival.

On the southwest, the SCS narrows down to just a 3-km-wide channel and forms the Strait of Malacca that is surrounded by the US allies; on the northeast, there is Taiwan Strait which can be blocked easily by Taiwan with its US weapons it has. To protect the SCS, China has started building artificial islands and constructing outposts. For instance, it has built a bunch of outposts in Spratly Islands, reclaimed and added 15km<sup>2</sup> of land to Pratalys and constructed military bases there. In addition,

China has transformed the Fiery Cross Reef from a sandbank into a seaport with an airstrip. The ambitious and aggressive militarization of the SCS by China to solidify its claim over all of the contested Sea has earned the ire of neighbouring countries, e.g. Vietnam, Malaysia, the Philippines, Brunei and Taiwan. The Philippines took China to the International Court of Arbitration in 2013 to challenge its Nine-Dash Line-based claim. China refused to take part in the proceedings. The ICA concluded unilaterally in 2016 and rejected China's historical title over the SCS. Since then, tensions have simmered, and sometimes boiled, over hundreds of tiny islands, coral reefs and shoals.

The United States has also long locked its horns with China over this issue. In a press statement released by the US Department of State, the United States, while officially clarifying its position on maritime claims in the SCS, termed China's claim as completely unlawful. The US maintains that under the UN Convention of Law of Sea, to which China is also a signatory, the SCS is international



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waters and every country has the right of unhindered freedom of navigation. To assert this right, US air force often sends sorties over China-controlled islands and its warships sail near them. The United States also conducts joint military exercises with the Philippines navy. In July 2020, Washington sent two aircraft carriers in this region in a move that earned a strong response from China which views the US' role as a troublemaker that aims at undermining regional peace and stability. The SCS dispute has remained unresolved and Washington, Beijing and other littoral countries would continue to fight over the right of innocent passage and rich resources that lay beneath. It makes the SCS the most volatile flashpoint that can aggravate ongoing US-China cold war-like competition.

Alliance-building is another feature of the US-China cold war. Unfortunately, the US has embarked on a perilous journey of building alliances along ideological lines: democracies vs autocracies. This demarcation of world

politics along distinct ideological blocs does smack of the Cold War—era when the USSR and the United States carved out independent spheres of influence. Some of these alliances—dubbed as Coalitions of the Willing—have been discussed here to underscore their potential ramifications on international peace and stability.

AUKUS, a defence pact among Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States, is being considered one of the most significant security arrangements in the Indo-Pacific region since the Second World War. The pact unnerved China and created a dent in US-France ties, albeit shortly.

Under the AUKUS, the US and the UK would enable Australia to build at least 8 nuclear-powered submarines, largely with the US technology. The parties would immediately start work on strengthening Canberra's long-range strike capabilities, sharing applied and cyber artificial intelligence, developing new quantum technologies, undersea technologies, and would seek integration of defence-related science, technology, industrial bases and supply chains. After the successful building of these submarines, Australia would become the seventh country having nuclear-powered submarines—after the US (68 nuclear-powered submarines), Russia (29), China (12), the United Kingdom (11), France (8) and India (1). In terms of the size of the fleet, Australia would become the fifth largest country in the world.

Given the destabilizing impact of the AUKUS deal, China has responded angrily. The spokesperson of China's foreign ministry maintained that [AUKUS] undermines regional peace and stability and intensifies the arms race. As per another statement from a Chinese official, the deal manifests the cold-war mentality and ideological prejudices. North Korea and Malaysia have also criticized the pact, warning that it would lead to intensification of the arms race.

Strategically, US commitment to transfer highly sensitive nuclear technology would entrench US' continued role in the Indo-Pacific and the apprehensions among US allies that growing military capabilities and diplomatic clout of China would squeeze out the United States would be



neutralized. The Biden administration has made it abundantly clear that it would not let China have an uncontested Indo-Pacific region. This deal also heralds the shift in the decades-old policy of the US to concentrate on an ASEAN-centric security framework. The US now has broadened its focus and would approach other members of the region to effectively counter rapidly-growing Chinese clout in Indo-Pacific. AUKUS has made it vividly clear that the new theatre for great-power competition is Indo-Pacific. And, after a humiliating defeat in and disorderly withdrawal from Afghanistan, the US is now determined to mobilize all its tools to challenge China's ascendance head-on. The Thucydides' trap is all set to plunge the world into a pernicious cycle of the cold war.

The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (a.k.a. Quad) has transformed from an informal security arrangement into an institutionalized alliance that deals with a wide range of challenges. On September 24, President Joe Biden hosted the premiers of India, Australia and Japan in the Quad summit that has helped strengthen the alliance and is being dubbed as a Pacific version of NATO, albeit at a nascent stage. It is certainly a worrying trend that the US which has already bilateral security pacts with Japan and South Korea and maintains a robust strategic partnership with India, is expanding its military footprints in the Indo-Pacific region. After the ending of the US "forever" war in Afghanistan, the US President had announced ending the long-held policy of military adventurism under the guise of nation building or democratization, but unfortunately, it appears the United States has decided to test the waters in East Asia and Pacific rim. That bodes ill for prospects of the successful overcoming of existential threats of the climate crisis and nuclear proliferation, and ultimate triumph of humanity over multi-faceted economic, political, humanitarian and social handicaps. ■

*The writer is a graduate of the University of Agriculture, Faisalabad. He writes on national and international affairs.*

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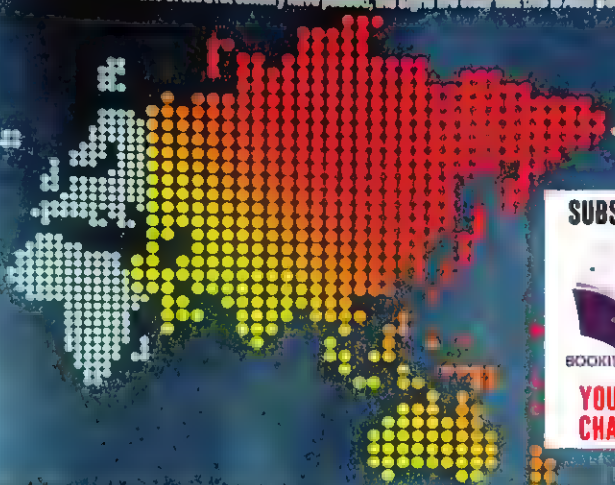
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# HAS THE ASIAN CENTURY BEGUN?

Many scientists and intellectuals around the world agree that the 21st century belongs to Asia. In this century, many Asian countries will move out of poverty and backwardness to join the ranks of prosperous and developed ones. In the nineteenth century, the European nations, with their progress in the field of education and research, had shaped this century. In the twentieth century, the United States joined Europe, and whatever development the world witnessed in that century was largely due to this alliance. Today, when two decades of the 21st century have passed, the signs are clear that this is Asia's century.



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Shafqat Javed

Chairperson of Senate of Pakistan, Chairman of Senate of Punjab, Foreign Affairs Committee, and Minister of Punjab, Syed said that the flow of refugees from Afghanistan marks the decline of the sole superpower. The haplessness, he said, shows the decline of the hegemony of Washington's influence in the world. "The 21st century is now coming to an end. We are beginning of the Asian century," the senator said.

He said that the world is now in a state of flux. The world is now in a state of flux. The world is now in a state of flux. The world is now in a state of flux.

e.g. US withdrawal from Afghanistan, its waning role in the Middle East, the decline of the US dollar, the rise of China, the rise of India, the rise of Japan, the rise of South Korea, the rise of Taiwan, the rise of Hong Kong, the rise of Singapore, the rise of Malaysia, the rise of Thailand, the rise of the Philippines, the rise of the Vietnam, the rise of the Laos, the rise of the Cambodia, the rise of the Myanmar, the rise of the Brunei, the rise of the Timor-Leste, the rise of the East Timor, the rise of the Indonesia, the rise of the Papua New Guinea, the rise of the Solomon Islands, the rise of the Vanuatu, the rise of the New Caledonia, the rise of the French Polynesia, the rise of the Cook Islands, the rise of the Niue, the rise of the Tokelau, the rise of the Marshall Islands, the rise of the Micronesia, the rise of the Palau, the rise of the Federated States of Micronesia, the rise of the Nauru, the rise of the Tuvalu, the rise of the Samoa, the rise of the Tonga, the rise of the Wallis and Futuna, the rise of the French Southern Territories, the rise of the New Zealand, the rise of the Australia, the rise of the Canada, the rise of the United States, the rise of the Mexico, the rise of the Central America, the rise of the Caribbean, the rise of the South America, the rise of the North America, the rise of the Europe, the rise of the Africa, the rise of the Asia, the rise of the Oceania, the rise of the Antarctica.

"Within just a few years, the heart of the global economy will beat in Asia."

The world is now in a state of flux. The world is now in a state of flux. The world is now in a state of flux. The world is now in a state of flux.

century an Asian century. In other words, it can be said that the superpowers so far will diminish and go into the background and be replaced by new powers. Changing the balance of power is not surprising, nor is it going to happen for the first time in the world.

The United States, practically, left the Middle East two years ago, when it stopped taking interest in the affairs of its allies. Now, it has bidden farewell to Central and West Asia as well. At the same time, China has emerged as a major and powerful economic powerhouse, and its rapid growth continues without facing any serious impediments. It is imprinting its growth from Southeast Asia to Africa. Europe is shaken by the growing Chinese economic prowess; and, so is the United States as both of them are terming China as their biggest challenge.

So, it is vividly clear that it is the century of Asia, and above all, it is the century of China. At the moment, the eyes of the whole world are focused on China. The world is seeing China rapidly becoming a superpower. The debate in intellectual circles is no longer over whether China will become a superpower, but over how long China will become one. On the other hand, China, too, is committed to restoring its grandeur and becoming a superpower. This is being debated in Chinese intellectual circles themselves and there is a section which believes that China has already become a superpower.

But it remains to be seen whether, despite these challenges, Asia's supremacy will emerge for the first time on the world horizon in the near future. Geographically, Asia extends from the Middle East to Japan, and from Bangladesh to Tokyo. The region has already overtaken the rest of the world in the race for development, while South-east Asia is at the forefront of global development with "Japan's Rise". Therefore, the development of Asia is nothing new. There is continuity, which is moving from one country to another. There is no denying the fact that the most developed region in the world at present is Southeast Asia and the Pacific. In this region, which stretches from Bangladesh to New Zealand, economic giants like Japan and a great power like China are located. This remarkable development in the region took place



in a period of only sixty years — an economic miracle, indeed. The small countries that were considered the most backward after World War II are, today, the examples of global development, and many of them have become world leaders in the economic domain.

South Korea is one such country; it was one of the poorest regions in the world only seventy years ago. Fishing with nets was the main occupa-

tion of the locals but then "Miracle on the Han River" took place and this country is now an epitome of fast progress. Its infrastructure is so strong that in the capital, Seoul which is situated on the banks of two mountains and a river, you will find eight bridges ten, ten miles long tunnels, connecting the two parts of the river. Trains and ordinary vehicles ply on them to make movement faster. Markets are teeming with buyers and happy faces can be seen everywhere.

Southeast Asian countries have been enslaved by various powers for centuries and most of them gained independence only seventy years ago — after the World War II. These include islands like Singapore with a population of 5.5 million and Indonesia with a population of about 240 million. Taiwan (part of China but a sovereign territory), Thailand, Malaysia, Philippines, Vietnam, Cambodia, South Korea, Brunei Darussalam and Australia are also part of the list. Although most of these countries do not have abundant natural resources, yet they have shown remarkable performance when it comes to economic development. They are unlike the rich countries of the Middle East who suddenly discovered huge oil reserves and by utilizing the income from them, built ports, airports, roads, bridges and skyscrapers — the development we see today in this part of the world.

The major powers did not launch projects like the "Marshall Plan" or the "Belt and Road" in Southeast Asia that led to their rapid economic growth, rather they have achieved all this through their

hard work, determination and visionary leadership. Although they attracted foreign investment and borrowed money from international financial institutions and rich countries, the money they received from abroad was spent well and with honesty. It can be seen in the development there today. Taking loans has become a matter of bygone days now and these countries are now lend-



East Asia is

themselves.

In Pakistan, we feel proud that South Korea adopted our economic plan. This is true, but instead of often bragging about it, we need to take a stock of our situation and know why we failed to implement that very plan that got South Korea included among the club of developed nations. Southeast Asia is a region of interest to both China and the United States today, so much so that the latter has created from the Middle East and West Asia to focus on it as this is the real arena of competition with China.

Most countries in Southeast Asia consist of islands, swamps or even miles of dense forests. Heavy rains, floods and hurricanes are common. Moreover, these countries have neither oil nor abundant minerals but they have made rapid progress. Japan, which indubitably is a big driver of growth and development of this region, is a perfect example to quote in this regard as all other countries, including China, adopted its model of development to climb the ladder of success. Japan has no significant oil or gas reserves nor does it have any mineral resources, but in spite of that, it became the world's second most powerful economic giant, after the United States, only fifteen years after the end of World War II that had turned this country into ruins.

This country surrendered to the United States in August 1945 after the cataclysmic damage caused by the dropping of two atomic bombs. At that time, areas from China to Indonesia were part of Japanese colonies - China gained independence from Japan only after its surrender. Japan also remained under US occupation for four years. Although the US troops withdrew from Japan later, it retained the US security and safety umbrella, long known as the "nuclear umbrella". Japanese policymakers didn't tangle themselves into the debate of deciding who the winner, or loser, was of this war. They were, rather, interested only in the development of their country and the well-being of their people. They had witnessed and borne the harrowing impact of war, so they were not ready to repeat their past mistakes. It was due to their wise policies that by 1965, Japan had become not only the world's second biggest economic power, but also a model of development, determination and new enthusiasm for all countries in the region. It instilled in the Japanese people a spirit that changed the destiny of the region. It did not bring heaps of aid to other countries, but gave leadership and thinking that leads to development. Today, the same Japanese philosophy "unless there is economic strength, all ideas, principles and celebrations are just an excuse to please the heart," drives the whole

region, including China.

Currently, there are no poor countries in the Southeast Asian region. Their leadership is focused on achieving national goals. It is due to this Japanese effect that Indonesia, the world's largest Muslim country, is now an emerging power. It controls strategically important waterways from Sumatra to the Strait of Malacca, which is the main route of sea trade from the Indian Ocean to the Pacific Ocean, i.e. from China to New Zealand. Rows of cargo ships can be seen there. Malaysia, which has been a role model in the development of Muslim countries for more than twenty years, is Indonesia's neighbour. India has made successful efforts to get closer to countries in this region. But, unfortunately, we have remained out of it since the secession of Bangladesh - It may be recalled that Bangladesh has achieved the export target of US\$50 billion by taking advantage of the development of the region. India and Japan have developed, under the patronage of the United States which is interested in increasing India's economic prowess to enable it to compete with China on its behalf, close bilateral ties so

much so that the prime ministers of the two countries pay reciprocal visits almost every year. Population and large markets are also important factors that make this region a strong contender to lead the 21st century.

At present, Uzbekistan is fighting Armenia and Georgia is up against Russia, while Ukraine is sandwiched between Europe and Russia.

Moreover, Syria, Egypt and Iraq are mired in their own problems. Lebanon, once the Paris of the Middle East, is now a picture of devastation. The Gulf states are entangled with Syria, Yemen and Iran. The plight of African countries, especially Muslim ones, is also dire. So, the only region that has the potential to transform the dream of Asia's century in reality is Southeast Asia and the country that will lead this revolution is China. With its mighty Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), China has announced its intentions. BRI has been interpreted as a rising China, sharing its economic wealth, and the load of building the infrastructure of an Asian century, with its regional counterparts. By any measure, Asia is about to reoccupy the centre of the global economic stage. In order to be a part of this future, Pakistan will have to be cautious and it should not work to eliminate India's minimal presence in Afghanistan under Taliban, rather the country's policymakers should focus on the real arena where it is increasing its engagements and that is South-east Asia. ■

*The writer is a member of staff*







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## A Trilateral Security Pact to Counter China in the Indo-Pacific

On September 16, Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States created a group called AUKUS to take up security challenges in the Indo-Pacific. The plan is to give access to cutting-edge military technology to Australia by its two partners in the alliance, including futuristic capabilities like artificial intelligence and quantum technologies. One of the most significant security partnerships of this decade, AUKUS aims to help modernize Australia over the coming decades to take up security challenges in the Indo-Pacific. While it could take more than a decade for Australia to build its first nuclear-powered submarine, the agreement shows the US is seeking to form a more cohesive defence arrangement in Asia to offset China's rapidly modernizing military.



Asif Khan Shinwari

### What is AUKUS?

Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States have recently announced a new trilateral security partnership - called AUKUS - for the Indo-Pacific. As part of this alliance, Australia will build nuclear-powered submarines for the first time, using technology provided by the US. AUKUS will also involve a new architecture of meetings and engagements of the three countries, as well as cooperation across emerging technologies like applied artificial intelligence (AI), quantum technologies and undersea capabilities.

### Why are the submarines important?

Nuclear-powered vessels are vastly superior to their diesel-electric counterparts: They're faster, can stay submerged almost indefinitely, and are bigger - allowing them to carry more weapons, equipment and supplies. Given Australia's remote location and the fact that its subs may operate in waters stretching from the Indian Ocean up to Japan, these are big pluses. Until now, only six nations - the US, the UK, France, China, Russia and India - have had the technology to deploy and operate nuclear-powered subs.

## Why France called its ambassadors from Australia and the US?

The AUKUS has created major fissures between apparent allies within the Western bloc. France was enraged by the AUKUS deal, which came as a surprise because Australia simultaneously cancelled a \$66 billion agreement it had with Paris for conventional subs. It prompted Paris to recall its ambassadors to the US and Australia back home for 'consultations'.

France, which is a NATO partner of the US and UK, has accused its allies of "duplicity" in scuttling its multibillion-dollar deal with Australia, with the French foreign minister saying that the relationship was going through a "serious crisis". The AUKUS controversy illustrates that even the closest of allies can become estranged when commercial concerns are at stake. After all, the French defence industry would have gained a profitable deal if the Australians had gone ahead with it.

### Strategic significance for the Indo-Pacific

The pact signifies the geopolitical shift from the Atlantic to the Pacific, but risks a new kind of arms race in the region. The long-term objective for this agreement was stated by Biden as: "We need to be able to address both the current strategic environment in the region and how it may evolve. Because the future of each of our nations - indeed the world - depends on a free and open Indo-Pacific enduring and flourishing ahead."

One important dimension reflected by this deal is that the US and the UK are now strongly committed to having 'free, open, resilient and inclusive Indo-Pacific'. The leaders of

the three countries have asserted the alliance will help to ensure peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region.

AUKUS relocates post-Brexit "Global Britain" in the Indo-Pacific as the beating heart of the emerging global order with economic dynamism, international trade and the diplomatic center of gravity all pivoting from the North Atlantic to this region. The nuclearization of the Australian Navy could create ripples of unease in neighbouring Southeast Asian countries and spark a regional race for nuclear naval propulsion.

### Why so much focus on China?

China's rise has steadily become one of the biggest foreign policy challenges not just for the US, but for almost every neighbour of China, and democracies around the world. China's rapid military development is a particularly acute threat to neighbouring countries such as India and the Philippines, which have active maritime or border disputes with China. But it also threatens the US military presence that has underpinned Asia's security architecture for decades.

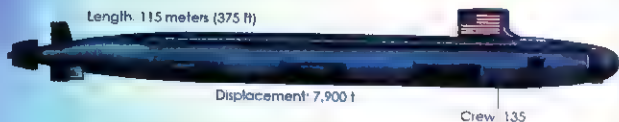
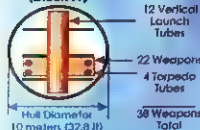
China's global economic reach has also greatly expanded as state-owned companies buy up strategic assets, such as ports, around the world that could be harnessed in times of war. Its statecraft - spearheaded by "wolf warrior" diplomats - has also grown more aggressive, particularly throughout the Covid-19 pandemic.

### China's reaction

China has consistently lashed out at what it calls a "Cold War mentality," denouncing such partnerships as anti-China cliques. Chinese officials argue that AUKUS will

## Nuclear Attack Submarines Currently Under Construction

### Virginia Class (Block IV)

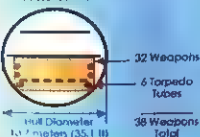


Length: 115 meters (375 ft)

Displacement: 7,900 t

Crew: 135

### Astute Class



Length: 97 meters (318 ft)

Displacement: 7,800 t

Crew: 98-109



stoke an arms race in the Asia-Pacific region. In their view, its members are trying not just to compete, but to contain China's rise — to throw a military net around it in vital waterways like the South China Sea, and undermine the country's economic development.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian criticized the three countries for being 'extremely irresponsible'. "The decision to supply Australia with nuclear submarines," he said, "seriously damages regional peace and stability, intensifies the arms race, and undermines the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons." Zhao declared that any regional mechanism in Asia "should be conducive to mutual trust and cooperation" and "not target any third party or harm the party's interests by forming an exclusive and closed small group." He called on the US, the UK and Australia to "abandon the outdated Cold War zero-sum mentality and narrow-minded geopolitical perception ... Otherwise, they will only end up shooting themselves in the foot." Relations have been getting tenser on all sides. Biden, like Trump, has trained his energies on preventing the world's second-largest economy from pulling ahead. Beijing also has sparred with the UK over Hong Kong, and with Canada over detained citizens, while Europe has called China a "systemic rival."

#### Reaction of other countries

India and Japan — the other two members of Quad besides Australia and the United States — welcomed the AUKUS deal, even though they're excluded, as a strong signal of US determination to confront China. Malaysia and Indonesia expressed deep concern about the potential for sparking an arms race or aggressive action in the region, while Singapore took a more neutral stance. China's ally North Korea lambasted the AUKUS pact as "undesirable and dangerous" and said the move to transfer nuclear technology to Australia underscored the need for North Korea to continue developing its arsenal of atomic weapons.

#### Does AUKUS augment or diminish the QUAD?

The Quad comprises India, the US, Japan and Australia. Fifty percent of the Quad comprises two-thirds of AUKUS. Members of the Quad are expected to concentrate on non-military


### Friends, neighbours and others

#### Trade and economic groupings



#### Security groupings



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**SUBMARINES BY COUNTRY**

**42 COUNTRIES** HAVE 484 MILITARY SUBMARINES

**ONLY 6 COUNTRIES** HAVE NUCLEAR POWERED SUBMARINES

initiatives following the creation of the AUKUS security pact.

AUKUS fits into a growing network of multilaterals crisscrossing the Indo-Pacific and rooted in shared strategic interests. There has been a boom in the number of multilateral partnerships in the Indo-Pacific in recent years, all arguably complementing each other with a shared sense of purpose. While the AUKUS is not connected with the Quad, its objectives are the same as those of the latter. Both desire peace and stability in the region and are opposed to the aggressiveness of China.

While the Joint Statement of the Quad pointed out the "shared vision for the free



and open Indo-Pacific" and the commitment to "strive for a region that is free, open, inclusive, healthy, anchored by democratic values and unconstrained by coercion," the main objective of the AUKUS, too, is the peace and stability of the region. But there is a difference in the two. The Quad is mainly an instrument of dealing with diplomatic and political dimensions involving all the four powers joining it, the AUKUS is defense pact to build the capabilities of Australia. It can be placed in the same category as the bilateral defence agreements of other nations in the region with the same objective.

#### Impact of AUKUS on Middle

##### East and South Asia

Despite its purported focus on the Indo-Pacific, the AUKUS will also impact the Middle East and South Asia. The deal, a consequence of the emerging bipolar competition between the US and China, will see Iran capitalize on the arrangement to further its nuclear goals. For if Australia can have more nuclear materials, so can Iran, Tehran will likely argue. And from there, a new nuclear arms race is set to get off and running. In South Asia, Beijing could do an AUKUS-like deal of its own with Pakistan, with which it already has extensive cooperation in nuclear matters. This will be payback by Beijing to counter India, which Washington has, over the past few years, tried assiduously to rope into an anti-China alliance. This could impact the conventional balance of power between Pakistan and India and could force New Delhi to alter its nuclear doctrine.

#### AUKUS reveals how America and Europe are drifting apart

France has used the crisis to advocate for a stronger European foreign policy. EU Council President Charles Michel and European Commission Director Ursula von der Leyen have also joined Macron, accusing Biden of following in the footsteps of Trump and his America First policies.

The fallout from the AUKUS deal is already fuelling stronger calls for the EU to move toward what France calls "strategic autonomy" — a Europe that is a more capable

geopolitical actor and thus less dependent on the United States for its security. The appeal of strategic autonomy grew during the presidency of Donald Trump, whose America First approach to foreign policy led many Europeans to question Washington's reliability and its commitment to European security.

#### AUKUS pact as a sign of a new global order

The deal has upset China, but it also binds the US into European security, in a world where NATO may be less relevant. The AUKUS announcement highlights the shifting world order. This alliance is a game-changer that represents an entree to the crown jewels of military and

intelligence capability. Nevertheless, it perhaps foretells the new global order that is unfolding at a rapid pace—with the US in one corner and China in the other! China may need not worry too much.

#### Will the AUKUS Pact undermine NATO?

According to a recent article in the Global Times by the Chinese government spokesman and some observers, the North Atlantic Alliance is destined to take a hit. Indeed, the strong exchange of rhetoric, the withdrawal of the French ambassadors from Canberra and Washington, and the cancellation of a ministerial meeting between the UK and France on missile collaboration could create the impression of a deepening crisis. As Britain and France constitute the two major European military powers in NATO, the alliance relies heavily on the long standing co-operation between London

and Paris to maintain its effectiveness.

Though the security pact between the US, UK and Australia did not cause a rift within NATO, it is not helping strengthen the alliance, either. Resolving AUKUS tensions is now key to the future of NATO. So long as tensions persist between London and Paris over the AUKUS pact, the prospect of the EU setting up its own, independent force will grow, a move that could have serious implications for NATO's future. ■

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# EU'S INDO-PACIFIC STRATEGY

## Cooperation or Confrontation?

In response to the formation of AUKUS by Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States, the European Union announced, on 16th September, its own strategy "EU Strategy for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific" to boost political and defence ties in the Indo-Pacific region. It is being termed as a landmark document that will define Brussels' attempts to expand its influence in this increasingly important part of the world. The launch of the strategy marks a major development for the EU's relations with this immense and growing region.

Aftab Abbasi



The world's economic and political centre of gravity has been shifting towards the Indo-Pacific for years. With China playing an increasingly dominant role in everything from trade to military power and technology, the relative decline of American supremacy is palpable. The European Union (EU) is stepping up its strategic engagement with the vital Indo-Pacific region. The region's growing

economic, demographic and political weight

makes it a key player in shaping the rules-based international order and in addressing global challenges. It is in this context that the bloc has issued its own "EU Strategy for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific" with which the EU seems set to push for a closer relationship and stronger presence in this important region.

### What the Plan Entails?

"With today's proposals, and guided by our values, we are offering a strengthened partnership to advance trade, investment and connectivity, while addressing common global challenges and reinforcing the rules-based international order." — Ursula von der Leyen (European Commission President)

The EU plan includes "exploring ways to ensure enhanced naval deployments by EU Member States to help protect the sea lines of communication and freedom of navigation," a statement said. Other areas the plan intends to address include building cooperation with countries in the region on trade, health, data, infrastructure, and the environment.

The new strategy could also beef up the EU's diplomatic profile on issues important to the region, and increase the military presence of EU countries in the Indo-Pacific. This could also involve deploying EU personnel and security presence to assist on international missions, including sailing EU flagged ships



on patrols in the South China Sea.

### Objectives

"Our strategy is inclusive, it is open to all our partners in the region. We wish to cooperate from East Africa to the Pacific, and this includes China in many areas, such as climate and biodiversity. China's cooperation is essential, our strategy is one of cooperation, but not confrontation."

— Josep Borrell (European Commission's High Representative for Foreign Affairs)

The EU's engagement with the Indo-Pacific region will be principled and long-term. It says the aim of the strategy is to strengthen and expand economic relations while reinforcing the respect of international trade rules, help partners fight and adapt to climate change and biodiversity loss, and boost cooperation on health care so least-developed countries can better prepare for crises like the coronavirus pandemic.

The strategy will seek to:

- Solidify and defend the rules-based international order, by promoting inclusive and effective multilateral cooperation based on shared values and principles, including a commitment to respecting democracy, human rights and the rule of law.
- Promote a level playing field and an open and fair environment for trade and investment.
- Contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), to addressing climate change and environ-

mental degradation on land and in the ocean, and to supporting sustainable and inclusive socio-economic development.

d. Engage in bilateral and multilateral cooperation with partners to meet the objectives of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

e. Pursue its long-standing multilateral and regional cooperation with the United Nations and Bretton Woods Institutions, as well as regional organisations such as ASEAN and the African Union in the Western Indian Ocean.

f. Support truly inclusive policy-making and cooperation, where the voices of civil society, the private sector, social partners and other key stakeholders count.

g. Establish mutually supportive trade and economic relations with the region that foster inclusive economic growth and stability, and promote and facilitate connectivity

h. Engage in the region as a partner in EU's efforts to raise awareness on the impact of global demographic trends.

### Priority Areas

As stated in the document, the EU Strategy for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific will allow the EU to enhance cooperation in the following priority areas:

#### 1. Sustainable and Inclusive Prosperity

- Work with Indo-Pacific partners to reinforce value chains, strengthen and diversify trade relations, implement existing trade agreements, finalise ongoing trade negotiations and develop cooperation in strategic sectors
- Strengthen rules to protect international trade against unfair practices, such as industrial subsidies, economic

coercion, forced technology transfers and intellectual property theft.

#### 2. Green Transition

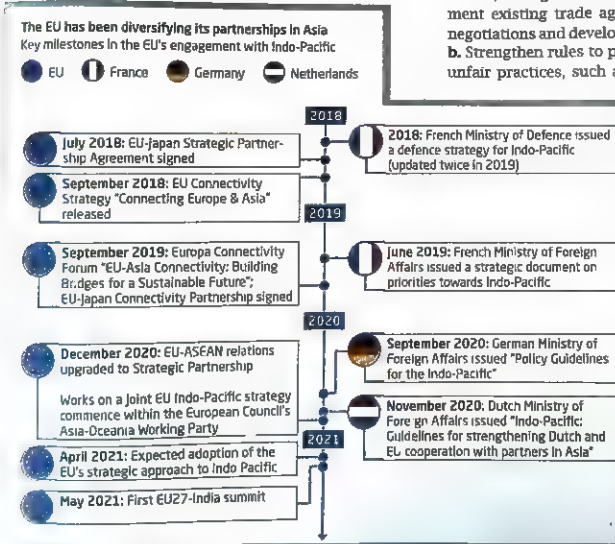
- Work with partners to fight, mitigate and adapt to climate change and to counter biodiversity loss, pollution and other forms of environmental degradation.

#### 3. Ocean Governance

- Strengthen ocean governance in the region in full compliance with international law, in particular UNCLOS.

- Continue to support partners in the region to fight against IUU fishing and to implement Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements.

#### 4. Digital Governance and





### Partnerships

a. Expand the network of digital partnerships with Indo-Pacific partners, and explore potential new Digital Partnership Agreements.

b. Strengthen cooperation on research and innovation with like-minded regional partners under the 'Horizon Europe' programme.

### 5. Connectivity

a. Promote all dimensions of connectivity with Indo-Pacific partners.

b. Support partners to establish a good regulatory environment and facilitate funding to improve connectivity on the ground between Europe and the Indo-Pacific.

### 6. Security and Defence

a. Promote an open and rules-based regional security architecture, including secure sea lines of communication, capacity-building and enhanced naval presence in the Indo-Pacific.

The 27-nation bloc's relations with China are currently at a low point, but the EU insists that the move is not aimed at countering Beijing's influence, even though the strategy does foresee the deepening of trade and investment ties with Taiwan.

"On many areas such as climate and biodiversity, China's cooperation is essential. Our strategy is one of cooperation, not confrontation. I think it's important to stress this sentence: our strategy is built on the will to cooperate, not to confront it," EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell told reporters.

### Analysis

While the intricacies of the EU's new strategy paper are still being digested by analysts, what's clear is that the EU hasn't diverted from its usual path in the Indo-Pacific. The strategy opens by stating that the EU should reinforce its focus and presence in the Indo-Pacific because of its increasing importance. It continues by saying that the EU

wants to reinforce its partnerships in the region on fronts such as climate change and humanitarian assistance. The Council deliberately made the strategy flexible and adaptable to the different powers in the region. In this way, cooperation can be achieved with players with either shared interests or shared values. The EU's strategy has the following key goals: to support partners in the region, promote the international community's global agenda, advance its own economic agenda, play a part in the security and defence of the Indo-Pacific, ensure high quality connectivity, and promote collaboration in the fields of research, innovation and digitalisation.

It is hardly surprising that the EU will release such a strategy document, given that more than 35 percent of all European exports go to this region, making the bloc the largest trading partner for several Indo-Pacific economies. It is worth noting

that there is no direct mention of China or any "finger pointing" in the strategy and while the EU recognises the challenges that the CCP poses, it is leaving the door open for cooperation. However, it is also worth noting that the use of terms such as Indo-Pacific or "rules based order" are not neutral, and to some, these concepts have become shorthand for anti-China. By using them, despite its efforts, the EU is generating tension and positioning itself towards the "like minded".

The main criticism towards the strategy is that it is a "paper tiger". In other words, in practical terms, it is soft on China and ambivalent on too many issues. However, this can also be seen as its strength, as with so many different member states' national interests to juggle, this ambivalence allows the EU to be flexible in its approach, especially on soft issues. **B**

*The writer is a member of staff*

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in the Indo-Pacific



b. Explore ways to ensure enhanced naval deployments by EU Member States in the region.

c. Support Indo-Pacific partners' capacity to ensure maritime security.

d. Facilitate capacity-building for partners to tackle cybercrime.

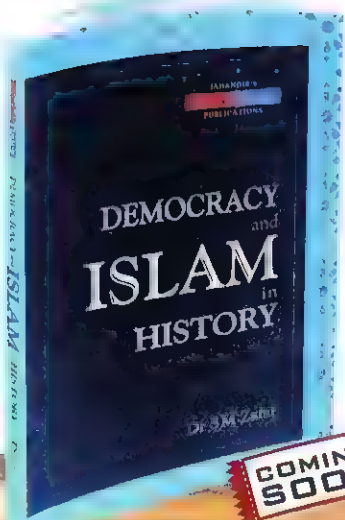
### 7. Human Security

a. Support healthcare systems and pandemic preparedness for the least-developed countries in the Indo-Pacific region.

b. Reinforce the EU's disaster risk reduction and preparedness engagement in the Indo-Pacific

### The China Factor

The EU is already the top investor, leading development cooperation partner and one of the biggest traders in the Indo-Pacific. But it wants to step up its involvement given the rise in regional geopolitical tensions which are hurting trade and supply chains and undermining security.



## Highlights

- ▶ Evolution of Democracy
- ▶ Islam, 'A Complete Code of Life'
- ▶ Prophetic State
- ▶ Succession in Islam
- ▶ Four Republics
- ▶ There is no Judgment except that of Allah
- ▶ Surah 'Al-Nasr' ('When Comes the Victory of Allah')
- ▶ Caliphates, Dynasties, Empires and Kingdoms
- ▶ Enduring Legacy
- ▶ Ethics of Disagreement
- ▶ Cogitation
- ▶ 'Ijma' – A Deliberative Democracy
- ▶ Islam is (not) in the Dock!
- ...& much more



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# MODERN GEOPOLITICS

**A Race Through  
Chaos to Stability**

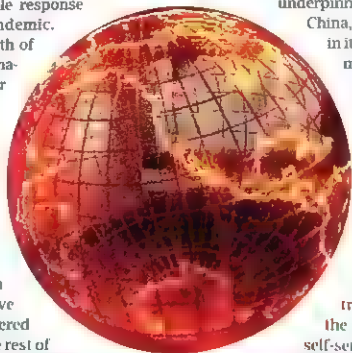
Fat ma Azad

**T**he third decade of the twenty-first century has compelled the world to face its most intractable challenge yet-offering a coherent, collective and equitable response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

This has tested the faith of the most ardent internationalists, and is part of a deeper churn in the global order that was underway even before the first Covid-19 case was reported in Wuhan in 2019. US hegemony has all but come to an end and the rise of a multipolar world has effected a redistribution of power at the global stage. American leadership, that would have been essential to catalysing collective action against the pandemic, bordered on wanting to island itself from the rest of the world much before former US President Trump launched the "America First" campaign. The

utopian vision of interdependence and global cooperation had already, taken a beating in Europe when Brexit demolished the ideological and institutional underpinnings of the European Union. And China, the other great power, was engaged in its project 'Pax Sinica', determined to make globalisation beneficial for its Communist party.

Global institutions had weakened, and the benefits of investing political will into their mechanisms had greatly receded. The coronavirus further exacerbated this: While nations scrambled to respond to this fast-spreading disease, their immediate reaction was to look inwards, go at it alone or with trusted partners, and engage with the international community only for self-serving purposes. At the end of the day, all were 'Darwinian' and privileged their own survival without consideration and care for





others. This is typified by the perverse 'Vaccine Access' world map.

As such, the postwar liberal international order—underwritten by the West under US leadership—had been facing an existential crisis since the turn of the century, with wars in South and West Asia and the financial crisis all challenging the old arrangements and aiding the rise of China as a new revisionist power. And then the virus from Wuhan exploded on the world stage, accelerating the processes that were already influencing modern geopolitics, a few of which are discussed here.

### The 3 Rs of Modern Geopolitics

The first is readjustment, as countries are grappling with the impact of the rise of new regional and global actors. The American century has waned, and the rise of the Asian century—home to the growing economies in the world—is well on its way. The biggest challenge to the global balance of power comes from China, which is set to be the first major economy to rebound after the pandemic. With the launch of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), China's close integration with global supply chains, and its advancements in civilian and military technologies, Beijing's rise appears to be an inevitable reality, however much its international behaviour instills distrust among many, particularly the US and some of its allies. A contest is, therefore, inevitable.

In President Biden's interim National Security Strategy Guidance, the rise of both China and Russia is treated as a challenge to a stable and open international system. President Xi Jinping, for his part, recently declared that Beijing will never allow any foreign forces to bully, oppress or enslave China and the focus of the party would be "the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation". Will the two global powers head for a confrontation or choose to opt for a peaceful coexistence with limited and contained disagreements? The outcome of the US-China rivalry remains to be seen, and countries caught at the intersection of this evolving dynamic must take into account how they readjust their approach to this new age of geopolitics. Russia too will be asked some tough questions and will have to make some difficult choices. Can a positive Biden-Putin engagement play a stabilising role in the 21st century? Or is a China-Russia nexus inevitable?

Second, the hard-won consensus on the frameworks underpinning multilateralism and globalisation is undergoing a dramatic restructuring. The 2008 global financial crisis, followed by the Covid-19 pandemic, has exposed the fragility of global economic

interdependence. The growth of hyper-nationalism and populist politics assess globalisation and multilateralism as arrangements that impinge on the sovereign choices of a state. As such, there is potential for the creation of a 'gated globalisation'—a globalisation that is less free and less open than before. Economic policies are no longer solely dictated by economic principles; they are now guided by strategic considerations, political trust, climate, health and technological threats. Countries, such as the UK, the US and India have introduced trade restrictions, investment-screening mechanisms, sanctions and monetary policies to reflect these new considerations. China has already perfected its own model of perverse global integration.

The disillusionment with multilateralism can be directly attributed to institutional inertia, lack of reforms and capture by vested interests, which continue to hamper decision-making before these organisations. Countries are, therefore, leaning towards smaller groupings to forge fluid, issue-specific partnerships, which can expedite cooperation between like-minded countries. While this can be one way to overcome the malaise of multilaterals, they may hamper the development of broader and cohesive international strategies for 'global bads'—from Covid-19 to climate change—which require the participation and commitment of all. The pandemic is not over till all are vaccinated and secured and the threat of climate change is not going to recede by unilateral actions of any single state. The ongoing restructuring calls for the need for new arrangements that can redress the inefficiencies of multilateralism and globalisation, without diminishing their larger benefits. Can a 'consortium of plurilateral groupings' agree to a common minimum framework to address the challenges that confront us all even as they engage within their own clubs to maximise their economy



and security?

In the midst of this churn, geopolitics has been reoriented to accommodate new actors, and emerging factors and considerations. Modern geopolitics is increasingly influenced by geoeconomics and geo-technology. Important works, such as *War by Other Means*, talk of the systemic use of economic instruments to achieve geopolitical objectives — a form of statecraft that was present during the Marshall Plan, and is present today as well through China's 'chequebook diplomacy' and more generally the BRI.

If the medium is the message, then technology is the future of our politics. The advent of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) has resulted in the development of technologies that can be both a boon and a bane for humankind. While America was at the forefront of technological leadership in the recent past, this is being challenged by China as it invests heavily in emerging and dual-use technologies such as artificial intelligence, Quantum Computing, and biotechnology. First movers may not only take the mantle of technological leadership, but will also become the providers for other countries, creating asymmetric dependencies. 'GeoTech' opens a new realm of interstate competition, where concerns of national security and strategic autonomy implicate technology choices and arrangements. In an increasingly digital world, the capture of data — and not territory — and the compromise of critical information infrastructure — and not state borders — are the new security challenges for nations. As an individual's attention, eyeballs and personal data become the coveted political prize, will the next domain of conflict be the human form and how we will protect it?

#### **New Actors, New Geographies**

While the above factors remain at the heart of this churn, new actors and geographies are influencing the conduct of geopolitics. Though the coronavirus hearkened the return of the 'nation-state', communities across borders represent a robust challenge to this primary unit of Westphalian sovereignty. The concentration of economic resources and power in global technology companies, from Twitter to Tencent, has driven home the fact that states are no longer the primary actors in the world. Hate, tribalism and irrational ideologies have returned with new vigour, riding on the reach and amplification of digital technologies. Technology giants are now the

arbiters of economic and political choices and are challenging the writ of the older political systems.

The emergence of new geographies, such as the Indo-Pacific, Eurasia and the Arctic, in which all regional and global powers have stakes, demand the genesis of new norms, institutions and partnerships. In a universally parochial world, there is limited appetite for leadership to shape and create these. In sum, the pandemic confirmed the decline of the US as a superpower and sharpened questions on Beijing's moral and political capability to step into the void. Even with its attendant equity and efficiency losses, the importance of 'multi-polarity' — first ideated by Primakov through the Russia, India and China trilateral mechanism — received a resolute confirmation. It has urged that we appreciate this shifting nature of global and domestic affairs to be able to adapt to an



increasingly complex world, that is no longer tethered to a conventional understanding of geopolitics.

While the ability to project power globally resides with the US, the world is steadily moving towards political, economic, technological and normative multipolarity. The evolving contours of modern geopolitics is still in a state of flux, and there is wisdom in accepting the notion that the end result is perhaps indeterminable. The age of disruption is here, countries that thrive on disorder may do well in the short term, while nations who invest in stability may well define the future of globalisation and, indeed, the new world order. ■

*The writer is pursuing her M Phil in Political Science.*



LATEST & REVISED EDITIONS







In a bid to promote gender diversity and inclusion in the financial sector, the SBP has recently launched its 'Banking on Equality' initiative. According to SBP Deputy Governor Sima Kamil, this initiative aims to transform the banking sector through the adoption of women-friendly business policies and practices. While addressing the launch ceremony, President Dr Arif Alvi said that the inclusion of women in financial mainstream as well as their digital empowerment would bring about economic stability besides many other intangible benefits to the society. Asserting that financially independent women cannot be exploited, the president said the women's financial inclusion would also significantly improve country's GDP as women were more reliable handlers of the financial products as had also been experienced in Bangladesh as well as Pakistan.

## BANKING ON EQUALITY

SBP's New Policy for  
Financial Inclusion of Women

Wajiha Zaman

ON

September 17, the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) launched a special policy based on gender diversity to transform the banking sector in the adoption of women-friendly business policies and practices. According to SBP, this policy, named 'Banking on Equality: Reducing the Gender Gap in Financial Inclusion', will

help remove the barriers to women's access to banking and financial services. The policy is aimed at diminishing the yawning gap between what bears semblance of civilization, where men and women don't anymore quibble over basic and established human rights debate and the gloomy state in the country where hardly 14.5 million women have bank accounts out of over 100 million of them headcounted, according to last official census.

In his address to the ceremony, President Dr Arif Alvi, who launched this policy, said that with the changing dynamics of the society marking minimizing needs of physical labour, the women could easily play their role in the society by using internet and other digital tools. With the five pillars of diversity, inclusion, accessibility, transparency and leadership, the policy has set target of around 20 million women having bank accounts by 2023. Currently, only 13% of the bank staff and 1% of branchless banking

agents are women. Under the policy, the financial institutions would be asked to ensure minimum 20% female participation in workforce by 2024. He added that a secure environment was inevitable for the women to make them play a productive role as the security of their children was always family's top priority.

The President also suggested that the number of women bank accounts could have a quantum jump if Ehsaas disbursements to all 17 million women were switched through banking channel instead of cash. It will also ensure women's enhanced control over the money.

Sharing his thoughts on women's financial inclusion, SBP Governor, Dr Reza Baqir, said that "It is the right of a human being as far as financial inclusion is concerned."

(Comparing the statistics regarding the percentage of adult women having bank accounts in different Muslim countries, he

said that the figure stands at 70% in Saudi Arabia, 76% in UAE, 54% in Turkey, 92% in Iran and 82% in Malaysia.)

Dr Baqir added that advancements in branchless banking have played a significant role in improving access to finance for people from various socioeconomic backgrounds, without the added cost of setting up brick and mortar structures. As a result, as of December 2020, 62% of adults have a bank account, showing a significant growth from 45% in 2017. Under the National Financial





Inclusion Strategy (NFIS), a target was set to ensure that at least 20 million women must have active bank account by 2023.

In the words of SBP's Deputy Governor, Sima Kamil, while progress has been made, the general gap is sadly growing, rather than narrowing. Sharing some figures, she said that in January 2020, 29% of adult women in Pakistan had bank accounts compared to 81% men. In December 2020, 33% of women had bank accounts while the percentage of men grew over 90%, so the gap is growing and we have an issue and it is a problem. She said that as per the central bank research the reason is not that women do not want to open bank accounts. "Looking at our research, both domestic and international, what we have concluded is that being gender-neutral is simply not enough," she added.

#### **Targets of the policy**

- ✓ Improving gender diversity by ensuring 20 percent of employees in all SBP-regulated financial institutions are women;
- ✓ Introducing women-centric products and services in the banks;
- ✓ Every bank branch needs to have women desks by 2024;
- ✓ Collecting gender-disaggregated data, particularly to build on how women are doing in finance sector and to set more targets;

- ✓ Setting up a Policy Forum on Gender at the central bank.

#### **Pillars**

As per the official document, there are five key pillars of the said program — gender diversity in financial institutions and access points, i.e. branches, call centres, etc. to encourage women towards formal financial services; women-centric products that cater to women's financial needs specifically while increasing financial literacy and awareness about women-centric product offerings; women's champions and specialised resources at all customer touch points for better customer experience; robust collection of gender-disaggregated data and target setting for informed policy interventions and post-launch monitoring and evaluation; policy forum on gender and finance to prioritise women's financial inclusion, drive the agenda forward, and increase buy-in from multiple stakeholders for added momentum.

As per the SBP's document, "The proposed policy identifies five key pillars under which actions are targeted

towards improving institutional diversity, product diversification and development capability, customer acquisition and facilitation approaches towards women segments, collection of gender dis-aggregated data, and prioritizing gender focus in SBP's policies. The policy recommendations will be applicable on SBP's regulated entities including Commercial Banks, Islamic Banks, Microfinance Banks



(MFBs), Development Finance Institutions (DFIs) and Electronic Money Institutions (EMIs), etc. Furthermore, Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) is expected to adopt a similar, yet customized, gender policy for the non-banking financial sector."

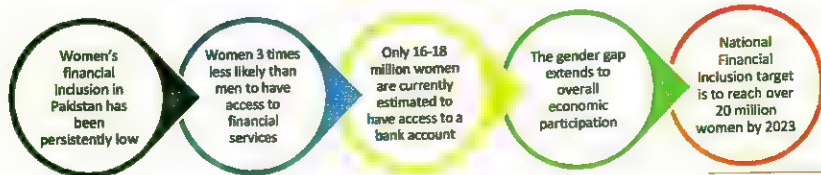
The key features of the policy are as follows:

#### **1. Improving Gender Diversity**

A financial institution cannot adequately address the female market segment without addressing its internal gender imbalance. (Currently, only 13% of the staff of banks and 1% of branchless banking agents are women.) More women working in leadership positions at financial institutions can also aid the development of policies and practices for improving gender balance across the financial sector as well as developing women-friendly products and services. Presence of women champions and specialized resources at all customer touch points, such as bank branches, branchless banking agents, call centres and alternate delivery channels, can aid women's adop-

tion of conventional and digital financial services. Financial Institutions (FIs) shall be asked to develop policies to improve gender diversity and ensure minimum 20% female participation in the workforce by 2024. They will create a new management sub-committee on gender, or amend existing management committee's KPIs to include focus on gender. The FIs will also adopt gender diversity targets and KPIs for all C-suite executives, and improve women's representation within senior management from current 6%. Specific targets for women's presence in decision-making senior management/regional management positions, shall also be set, while it must be ensured that anti-harassment policies and reporting framework, and women-friendly policies and practices are in place at banks. Lastly, although it is an SECP requirement for all institutions to have at least one woman on their board, there are gaps in its compliance. Therefore, the policy will re-iterate financial institutions to increase the number of women in their board of directors.

## 2. Women-centric Products and Outreach Targets



To shift from gender-neutral to gender-inclusive product design, it is imperative that a dedicated team works on gender-segmented product designing and creates a business case, while understanding the existing social norms, and marketing products effectively. Therefore, FIs shall create a specialized department within 6 months of issuance of this policy, to apply gender lens on existing and new products and services offerings, keeping in view various use cases within women demographics of all ages and life cycle stages. FIs will be assigned outreach targets for savings and credit products to enhance access, usage and quality of financial services to women. In order to meet these targets, FIs will collaborate with various women civil society organizations, chambers of commerce and trade bodies to reach out, provide hand-holding and non-financial advisory services to the market, and assist aspiring women entrepreneurs to access credit products and services. Further, FIs will seek opportunities for collaboration with Ehsaas program to graduate beneficiaries from social cash transfers to value-added products and services, and statutory bodies such as ECP and NADRA to create opportunities for raising awareness and facilitate bank account opening.

Further, all FI websites and apps will have a tab/section for "Women Financial Services" to direct potential customers towards availing products catered to their needs and must collaborate with Fintechs, Incubation Centres and Accelerators for development of digital access tools and creating digital awareness and marketing for banking products and services.

## 3. Women Champions at All Customer Touch Points

Women's financial inclusion cannot be improved without understanding their needs with careful attention. However, women customers, especially entrepreneurs, feel intimidated to visit a bank branch as they are not facilitated effectively. Therefore, to enable banks to improve facilitation of women customers and entrepreneurs, women champions shall be deployed at all customer touch points. The women champions must undergo gender-sensitivity training, and should be well versed with the bank's products along with government and SBP's schemes for women entrepreneurs. They should proactively guide the women entrepreneurs to get access to credit. Further, all other virtual touch points of the

banks, including call centres, apps and alternate delivery channels should aim to be more women-friendly. The resources at physical and virtual touch points will also serve as a main contact point for non-financial advisory services and complaint redressal. By 2024, the resources should be deployed on at least 75% of all touch points.

## 4. Robust Collection of Gender-Disaggregated Data and Target Setting

The absence of data and targets can dilute FIs focus on gender in finance, and impede development of informed policies and associated actions for closing the gender gap. Therefore, under the policy, all institutions under SBP's ambit will be instructed to collect and report gender disaggregated data related to gender dis-aggregated outreach of products and services, to SBP. The data collection will also help FIs to recognize the opportunities and challenges in women's financial inclusion, and help them in developing internal policies to comply with SBP's gender policy and targets. Furthermore, SBP will also strengthen its own research on gender and develop tools in line with international best practices for impact assessment.



### 5. Policy Forum on Gender & Finance

To discuss opportunities and challenges in women's financial inclusion, internalize gender mainstreaming within organizations, and review the existing legal and policy framework for identification of bottlenecks in women's financial inclusion, a Policy Forum on Gender and Finance will be established at SBP. The forum will be chaired by Governor SBP and will include members from Banks, DFIs, MFBs, SECP, women chambers of commerce, civil society, private sector, gender leaders, etc. while it will meet at least bi-annually to serve as apex forum for



future policy formulation on gender. The forum will also create space for innovations that support greater women's financial inclusion. Going forward, under the forum, SBP will host annual conferences for knowledge-sharing, plenary discussions on gender and finance, and give awards to those banks which have made significant efforts to close the gender gap in finance.

SBP is aware that closing the gender gap is challenging since the root causes go beyond access, and centre on powerful social norms. Nonetheless, gender-blind practices will continue to perpetuate the gaps, despite advancement in technology, innovations and business models. Therefore, with the implementation of the proposed policy, financial institutions shall adopt a holistic and mindful incorporation of gender perspectives in their policies, with the aim to advance women's financial inclusion in Pakistan. In parallel to the gender mainstreaming policy implemented on the financial sector, SBP is also working on adopting better gender diversity policies to hire, retain and promote more women in the organizations.

#### Analysis

The first of its kind mainstreaming effort for the financial sector, which introduces a gender lens in our banking

practices, is creditable. The policy aims to boost the number of active women-transaction bank accounts from the existing 14.5 million to around 20 million by 2023 and increase female participation in the workforce of financial institutions from 13 percent to 20 percent by 2024. In the given circumstances, the targets seem ambitious. But these are achievable with a little bit of push from the central bank and increased use of technology.

Improved gender diversity in financial institutions, creation of women desks at bank branches to facilitate female clients and the development of women-centric products and services as envisaged in the policy should largely take care of supply-side barriers. The collection of gender-disaggregated data and institutionalisation of a policy forum on gender at the State Bank can push banks to meet policy targets. The recent extension of the facility to open bank accounts digitally to resident Pakistanis should help boost the financial inclusion of women. It is not clear if these initiatives have done away with any condition for the 'validation' of a male family member for an adult woman to become part of the banking system. If it hasn't, it should be dismantled immediately.

Currently, women are disproportionately under-served by the country's banking system. Reports show that women can be forced to move towards informal means to meet their borrowing and savings needs. A State Bank survey showed only 5 percent women savers used formal channels in 2015 and the Pakistan Microfinance Review 2019 put the total number of female borrowers at just 3.8 million. Little wonder then that the World Bank

in a 2018 report strongly underscored the importance of always keeping women at the centre of financial inclusion since their access to a secure and private means of savings and financing is closely linked to their social empowerment and enables them to contribute positively to economic growth, and creates opportunities for them. Thus, President Arif Alvi was spot on when he said that opening bank accounts for women was just one way of financial inclusion. It would open up avenues for them to access credit, payments, insurance and other financial services at an affordable price. Bridging the gender gap in financial inclusion will be challenging since the causes go beyond access to services and are rooted in social values and norms. Nonetheless, the shift from gender-blind and gender-neutral practices to women-specific efforts envisaged by the new State Bank policy should go a long way in empowering them economically. ■

*The writer is a Lahore-based educator.*



# RETHINKING CRIMINAL JUSTICE IN PAKISTAN

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Kamran Adil

**E**very now and then, lot of noise is made about the poverty of imagination in dealing with criminal justice challenges in Pakistan. This cacophony is essentially emotional and ~~any~~ serious thought. The shallowness of this approach has led to a public policy consideration that looks at justice sector as a basket case and as a black hole that should not be treated as a developmental priority. This mindset must be put right by revisiting and rethinking criminal justice and its governance in the country. This adumbration will highlight few points that can help rethink and re-design a more optimistic discourse on the subject.

Firstly, given the primacy of national security and its all-pervasive nature in the context of Pakistan, the criminal justice must twine itself around the doctrine of national security; the two concepts must be treated as an organic whole. It must be acknowledged that criminal justice is all about internal security. Its tools include, but are not limited to, the use of legal power of the state through criminal law, criminal procedure and evidence duly counterbalanced by constitutional safeguards of fundamental rights. These legal

powers have many manifestations. From arresting an accused to attaching his property to regulating protests and enforcing Covid-related instructions in the country; all fall under this category. The delinking of national security and criminal justice has only led to disorder and parallel legal and judicial systems in the country. The commonality of state in national security and criminal justice must be reckoned with, and provincial state powers and federal state power must act in unison. Secondly, in line with the Supreme Court-driven Police Reforms Committee Report of 2019, police must be treated as a concurrent subject. Presently, the provinces treat police as a provincial and policing as a federal subject. This does not square with constitutional scheme that provided for a synchronized architecture that served objectives of both the federation and the provinces.

Thirdly, the rule of law should be the spirit of criminal justice system. The technical aspects of procedural law that was written in 1898 with precedential force reinforces technicalities over spirit of law; this can and must be changed by adopting a rights-based approach towards the rule of law. The incumbent government has prepared over eight hundred legal amendments to address this issue. The black letter law must be energized by the spirit of



rights to bring about desired results.

Fourthly, the inequality in application of law must be addressed through use of technology that does not differentiate on the basis of gender, sex or any other reason. This is easier said than done as all components of the criminal justice system and their leadership will have to embrace technology and its outcomes at the cost of their discretion and unchecked authority.

Fifthly, the justice statistics must be as loyally collected, collated and disseminated as the statistics of other social sector indicators like health and education. The openness will help plan better and will lead to evidence-based budgeting and decision-making. The present method of measuring crimes is arcane and has many definitional as



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well as practical problems. The entry into the criminal justice system may be measured, but should not be used as an operational performance evaluation tool, and should certainly not be used as a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check (Character Certificates). The practice of issuing police vetting on the basis of registered crime should be reviewed and a better measure of arraignment record be used for police vetting and background checks; this will ease the grip of crime reports on the criminal

justice processes that are often problematized due to over-weightage of registered crime instead of evidence-based crime-processing in the form of criminal charging by police. The global best practice of treating crime as a social phenomenon instead of a state-controlled activity may be considered to rethink police, prosecution and judicature performance and accountability metrics.

Sixthly, the alternate dispute resolution and legal aid become operational only at the trial stage at the moment. This

approach must be introduced at the starting point of the criminal justice system in the form of pre-registration of criminal case strategies.

Seventhly, the conventional criminal justice is designed to prevent and detect heinous crimes against property and persons. While dealing with heinous crime is very important, introducing strategies that can assure public safety in women and children is no less significant. The urban and rural policing and criminal justice strategies must be tailored to societal problems. This would require much more effort than usually considered. Balancing competing needs of aggressive policing with community-oriented restorative justice practices must be the nub of police training as police officers need to know both aspects of policing.

Lastly, the governance of criminal justice system should be organized on modern management principles that require accountability and authority to lie at one point. Public policy on crime control and public safety must be informed by specialists with enabling environment. ■

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Muhammad Asim Jasra



#### Brief Introduction

Violence against women is not confined to our country only rather it is prevalent in almost all countries of the world. The worst kind of such violence is 'honour killing'. It is termed *Siyahkari* in Balochistan, *Tor Tora* in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, *Karo Kari* in Sindh and *Kala Kali* in Punjab. On the accusation of illicit relationship, men and women are killed; the latter forming an overwhelming majority of victims. Reaction to this violence is silence, in most cases.

Significance of dealing with this crime has no parallel in the overall administration of justice because it often goes unreported. This is, perhaps, one of those heinous offences in which the persons who should, otherwise, have been the complainants in the very case, turn to be the killers of their family member, and their interest lies in either not reporting the case or reporting it as an accidental murder so that the case may be withdrawn later by some self-installed complainants.

The difficulties don't end up even after the crime of honour killing is reported and a case registered thereupon at a police station. Then, there is the stage of investigation or collection of evidence where no one would be willing to give statement about the actual cause of death. So, after the stage of reporting and information, investigation of the case is the real challenge for the police.

#### Why honour killings go unreported

This crime is unique for the reason that killers are generally in blood relation with the victim. The very crime is committed by family members whose interest does not lie in the reporting of the case. For the purpose of hiding

A CRIME THAT OFTEN  
GOES UNREPORTED

## HONOR KILLING

A Challenge to the  
law-enforcement agencies

the crime from police eyes, they show to the community that the death was natural. They even weep over dead body just to stage a drama to befool the community and hide the case from police.

Even if some from the community notice that the death was not natural, they do not come forward to report and become witness as they think it to be an internal matter of the family. Moreover, they fear reaction and retaliation from the family of the women killed in the name of honour. Another very common mindset is that the lady has been killed in the name of honour, and the deceased herself has contributed to her murder by doing something not acceptable to her family.

If it becomes inevitable to report the crime, the perpetrators install their own complainant to lodge the First Information Report (FIR), and the fact of honour killing is not made part of its contents, rather it is given the colour of accidental murder or murder caused due to domestic conflict. On some later stage, the very case is

withdrawn by the installed complainant belonging to the same family.

Unfortunately, there are scant chances of conviction if the case is registered in this way as there is no one to provide evidence of the killing. The collection of evidence, when no one is willing to provide it voluntarily to the police, then, becomes a cumbersome task.

#### **Cause of honour killing**

The grave crime of honour killing is committed when a woman and a man are witnessed in compromising situation or when the killer thinks that such illicit relationship exists. According to different studies conducted by UNICEF, many women are killed on the basis of mere suspicion.

It seems pertinent to mention here that Islam gives a woman the right to marry out of her own free will with a man of her choosing. But, in our society, unfortunately, the very right seems to have been taken away. Not only the very right has been taken away but also it is considered an act of defiance from the so-called values of society and such acts are taken as to disgrace the honour of the family; consequently, the exercise of very right on the part of woman causes the honour killing.

#### **Position of karo kari before amendment to section 302 PPC**

The recent amendment made, in 2005, to Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) section 302, which enunciates severe punishment for *karo kari* cases, has rectified the legal position. Before the passing of this amendment, courts and society had very lenient view of honour killings, and mitigated punishments were awarded to the perpetrators of this heinous crime. Earlier, the honour killing was a compoundable offence. Therefore, there was an increase in the cases of honour killings.

#### **Current legal status of honour killing cases**

The punishment for honour killing cases has been provided in section 302 of PPC which reads: "Whoever commits *qatl-i-amd* shall subject to the provision of this chapter (chapter # XVI of PPC) be:

(a) punished with death as *qisas*;

(b) punished with death for imprisonment for life as *ta'zir* having regard to the facts and circumstances of the case, if the proof in either of the forms specified in Section 304 is not



available; or

(c) punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to twenty-five years, where, according to the Injunctions of Islam, the punishment of *qisas* is not applicable.

Provided that nothing in this clause shall apply to the offence of *qatl-i-amd* if committed in the name, or on the pretext of, honour and the same shall fall within the ambit of clause (a) or clause (b) as the case may be."

The proviso has been added to the very section in 2005

amendment (The Criminal Law Amendment Act I of 2005) which qualifies that severe punishment as stated in clause (a) and (b) be provided to honour killing cases, and the mitigated punishment as stated in clause (c) cannot be provided to *karo kari* cases.

#### **Age of victims**

Honour killings are not age-specific. From a child girl of 14 years to an elder woman of 60 years can be a victim of this crime. However, most of the victims are the young women. According to a survey conducted by Sindh Journalists Network for Children (SJN) for UNICEF, 48 percent of those killed were of the age between 15 and 20 years — keeping in view the crime data of 2013. This survey was prepared on the basis of honour killing cases reported by community members interviewed. Victims above the age of 40 years were 6 percent as per the findings of the survey.

#### **Who commits the offences?**

Almost all the male members of a family consider themselves the owners and custodians of the women of their family; especially the husband, father and brother show more vigour and assert their role as a guardian of women. Therefore, in honour killing cases, these closely-related male family members turn to be the killers of the women as they feel their honour was trampled on.

According to SJN survey, in 51% cases of honour killing, husband of the woman turned out to be the killer; 19% killers were brothers of women; 5% were fathers; and the rest included uncles, cousins and others.

#### **Role of Jirgas**

If one evaluates and examines the rules, regulations, codes and verdicts of jirgas, which play their role in deciding the *kari* cases, one can conclude



that there is sufficient negative impact of tribal jirgas on the very cases as they are not only in contrast to the legal provisions but also clearly encourage the killings in the name of honour as these killings get a justification and the killers are declared the aggrieved party. Compensation is ensured and protection from law and law-enforcement agencies is provided to the killers. There is a dire need of prevention of jirga settlements relating to the cases of honour killings.

#### Suggestions

Here are some recommendations in this regard, which would address the following two questions:

1. How to prevent honour killings; and
2. How to get such cases reported, if it happens

Traditions and cultural values are certainly a great socio-cultural wealth for any nation. However, some of them have been historically proved to be inhuman with dangerous consequences for the human beings as education and awareness increased in the world. The very custom of honour killings is one of them. Any tribal jirga that legitimates such killings should be dealt by the police with iron hands.

It is further recommended that all steps be taken to implement the law on domestic violence; it is not an internal domestic issue but a matter of implementing the laws of the state.

If law is allowed to take its own course, and justice is done to the killed one and the accused party, it acts as deterrence for others; thus fair investigation after due registration of cases is a kind of prevention also.

It is also the need of the hour that the police are trained properly to tackle such complaints; if women are properly handled at police station, it encourages them to report such offences.

The role of district intelligence branch (DIB) working in DPO/SSP office cannot be ruled out in this regard. They have their own intelligence setup in each police station, and informers in the society. They have their own mechanism of information collection. SHO may have his own informers. Moreover, the gravedigger (*gorkan*) may be helpful

in this regard. In this case, the death of every young healthy girl creates doubt in every rational mind; the very aspect should not be overlooked by local police. Lady health workers may prove very important source of information for the police because they visit each and every house of the locality and know each girl by name.

Police liaison with media persons and civil society may prove useful in information collection and collection of evidence at

investigation stage.

It is also a sad fact that the police have very rarely been friendly to women. It is very difficult for women to get registered their FIRs; whenever they try to get registered a case against their cruel and abusive husband; they are contemptuously returned to their homes.

There is a need to inculcate the sense of justice among the police officers for the lady killed in the name of honour, and it lies in the police training institutes to impart moral training to the police officers.

Moreover, women's desks at police stations should be established. Both male and female police personnel need to be trained to deal with the complaints of violence against women in a gender sensitive manner. At least one trained woman police officer should be present at each police station to deal with the specific problems of women complainants.

Women have not enough awareness about their rights; that's why they remain silent on the acts of injustices with them or other their close female relatives. It is suggested



that a comprehensive legal awareness be launched for women. This would encourage them to come forward and report the very crimes.

Shelter homes for women who feel threat of being killed in the name of honour, are suggested to be established at Tehsil level. They may be set up in collaboration with NGOs to provide protection, legal aid and psychological counseling for women in crisis. Such existing services should be widely publicized.

Last but not least, the basic cause is existing illiteracy among the masses. Consequently, people remain prisoners of patriarchal, feudal and tribal thinking. There is not only need of reforming the formal educational system but also need of launching some programmes of informal education and awareness in the form of workshops, seminars and literacy programmes at the local level particularly in the rural areas of Pakistan. ■

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# PAKISTAN'S DEMOGRAPHIC CHALLENGE

Pakistan's youth bulge has been described both as a challenge and an opportunity. The Pakistan National Development Human Report describes Pakistan as one of the youngest countries with 68% of its population below the age of 30, and about 27% aged between 15 and 29 years. The youth bulge is an asset as it provides massive opportunities to power the national growth by leveraging the potential of the youth. More so the case when many parts of the world, particularly in Europe, are haunted by the prospect of aged population.

Amanat Ali Chaudhry



In order to fully capitalize on the opportunity presented by the youth bulge, there are certain prerequisites that need to be fulfilled. The chief among them is the need for a comprehensive youth empowerment program. It is easier said than done, especially for a country that continues to face resource constraints, and finds itself in dire economic situation owing to Covid-19 related slowdown. It is equally important to point out that the opportunity comes with a challenge, thus putting a heavy responsibility on the decision makers to fully and thoroughly think through their responses.

As recognized by the UNDP report, the youth bulge is Pakistan's window of opportunity to embark

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on a path of sustainable development. The amazing prospect for a fast-paced growth is followed by dire threats of upheavals to be caused by our national failure to leverage the robust - but raw - energies of our youth. Hence, the dynamics unleashed by this important segment of our demography are deep in nature, and far-reaching in impact with a potential to reshape our state and society.

It is, therefore, important, nay essential, that our national conversation focuses on the youth, the varied challenges they face and how these challenges can be converted into opportunities through a meaningful state intervention. The lack of national conversation means that there is not enough national will to prioritize youth-related issues.

There is enough evidence from around the world that suggests the rising level of expectations of the teeming millions in general and that of the youth in particular from the nation-states. These expectations are not just centred on a greater share in the economic cake, commensurate with their burgeoning size but also demand a greater say in deciding the national affairs.

In discussing the characteristics unique to a generation born after 1995, better known in the jargon of Generation Z, it is important to discuss the role of information and communication technology (ICTs) that has shaped many of this generation's reference points, and the nature of their interactions with the state and society. With access to the world and all that is happening in it just a click away, thanks to the mushrooming growth of ICTs and their penetrating role in life, the contribution of technological factor in shaping the worldview of Generation Z is well-documented.

However, to presume that technology always plays the role of an equaliser is to overlook the digital divide that is a fact of life, distinguishing the urban areas from the backward ones. For the most part, our attention has been directed at the urbanite youth to the neglect of those living in the rural hinterlands. For this segment of the youth, life offers different experiences and insights. Therefore, an assessment of their predicaments, challenges and opportunities is in order here to arrive at a balanced conclusion regarding the potential of Generation Z to effect meaningful changes capable of responding to the demographic challenge.

The lives of the rural youth have been shaped by an array of factors and institutions with a huge bearing on their way of thinking and subsequent actions. Ever since they gained consciousness in 2000 onward, this version of Generation Z has seen the world in perpetual turmoil. The

political conflicts, unending wars, suicide bombings, and terrorism have filled their minds with the images that lowered the bar for the use of violence as a means of getting their demands accepted. The blowback effect on the country, which found itself involved in a war on terror as a frontline ally, has deepened the influence of violence. Secondly, Pakistan witnessed a massive revolution in the field of media about the same time that this generation was in schools. The political analysts, news anchors and the content aired on TV talk shows have helped them form first-hand impressions of the world around them. The debates on a range of issues have served as their primary source of information and opinion-making irrespective of the questions being raised about authenticity of information and data pedalled round the clock by TV channels.

While media's role in strengthening the culture of free



speech and keeping a check on the governments is laudable, the content aired on TV channels leaves a lot to be desired in terms of efficacy, correctness and compliance with the requisite journalistic standards. Operating in the absence of strict code of conduct, Pakistani media has unfortunately promoted bigotry, fake news and partisanship in the present socio-political milieu. No-holds-barred sabre-rattling on TV screens meant solely for ratings has deeply impacted a whole generation of the youth, turning them into warriors who get motivated more by emotion than by logic as they grapple with issues around them.

Thirdly, the kind of education imparted in the educational institutions attended by the youth of semi-urban and rural areas has the ultimate objective of equipping them with degrees than with the intellectual wherewithal to resolve the complex problems of human existence. The

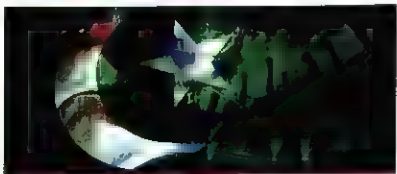
problem becomes acutely complex when you add the hundreds of thousands of the youth studying in religious seminaries, completely divorced from the demands of contemporary life and living in an island of their own. The various streams of education that remain in vogue in Pakistan have helped build walls among different sections of society, thereby strengthening the divide on the basis of class and economic grouping.

Another problem attendant with the failure of our educational institutions is that the learning outcomes are not commensurate with the demands of the market and industry. Hence, we are swelling the ranks of the unemployed youth who have degrees but not the requisite skill set to be able to be absorbed by the job market.

Fourthly, another institution that has the potential to help bridge the divide and empower the youth is that of political parties that can address their aspirations through a clear articulation of their problems and suggestion of concrete policies for their resolution. Unfortunately, it has not happened the way it should have. It is indeed perplexing how such a critical segment that holds the key in terms of its sheer numbers and its ability

unheard of, the fact remains that the challenges to the writ of the state have persisted. Couple this with an unequal nature of our society and you have a deadly mix where the radical forces can exploit the situation to target the vulnerable youth. The danger of radicalism, thus, becomes quite real in such a socio-cultural and political milieu.

Responding to the challenge of youth bulge in a holistic and comprehensive manner deserves utmost importance as well as urgency. We can learn a lesson or two from the countries that have successfully turned this bulge into a demographic dividend. Generation Z is robust, energetic and clear-headed but equally restless and excited. It is



time we harnessed their potential before their energies are squandered off to our collective loss. I propose a Grand National Dialogue as the way forward to bring all important stakeholders on one table. The agenda must be to work out medium- to long-term policies for the youth empowerment with a strong national consensus supporting them.

The option of a steering committee may be considered to serve as the linchpin of the dialogue vested with the authority to make critical decisions. This body can also learn from the world's best practices and customize the lessons in our local

contexts. China is a pertinent example to study as Beijing turned its population into a demographic dividend. There will still be many missing links that can be bridged but a beginning has to be made. The issue of demography is too important to be ignored anymore. ■

to spearhead the journey of national development could not find the kind of policy focus it so richly deserved. Political parties worldwide are the nurseries for the political training of the youth from whose ranks emerge the generations of leaders that will lead nations in times to come.

Fifthly, the consciousness of our Generation Z has evolved in an environment when the state has been confronted with a huge challenge of non-state actors of various hues and colours that sought to attack the symbols of the state. Though Pakistan's story of humbling terrorism and the violent non-state actors is indeed inspirational and

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Informality is considered a cause of low productivity and poverty in developing economies. It is empirically found that development is associated with declining informality.

It is difficult to find a single unanimous definition of informality due to conceptual differences. Normally, evaders, avoiders and outsiders in respect of state laws and regulations are considered operating in the informal economy. Evaders are covered by the law but they do not comply with laws and regulations; avoiders adjust to remain outside the remit of the laws and regulations; and outsiders are not covered by the laws and regulations. In the context of taxation, avoiders are taxable persons who adjust sales/turnover to keep themselves below the tax threshold to avoid taxes and compliance costs; evaders are those taxable persons who are legally liable but pay no tax at all; and evaders are taxable persons who under-declare sales/turnover and/or inflate expenses to reduce taxable income to evade taxes.

Taxation policy has been widely used as an instrument to reduce informality, considered crucial to allow economy to operate at full employment level, fizzle out underemployment, wipe out poverty, ensure gender equality and stabilize economic growth. Empirical evidence shows that workers in the informal economy face higher risk of

poverty than those in the formal economy. The working conditions in the informal economy are inadequate and unsafe, and workers have high illiteracy levels, low skill levels and inadequate training opportunities. Therefore, the informal economies have higher levels of unemployment and underemployment.

In view of multifaceted nature of informal economy, it is not an easy task to reduce its size rather it requires vertical integration and coherence across the range of policies to curb informality. Pakistan is lower-middle-

income country typically having a large informal sector, very high self-employment rates and low levels of tax collection. Informal economy in the country is estimated to be as large as size of the formal economy.

The business firms, especially small and medium ones, continued operating in informal economy largely to avoid taxes by keeping costs and revenues off the books.

Such a trend restricts growth of these firms in order to keep tax authorities from enforcement measures. Therefore, there is an urgency to enhance the size of formal economy to correct distortions induced by informality by facilitating the firms to get registration under the tax laws. This can be achieved by lowering the cost of registration and making it easier for the firms to pay taxes and file declarations. In order to bring big retailers into formal economy, Sales Tax Act, 1990, has been amended to



integrate Tier-1 retailers across the country so that the tax authorities should obtain real-time data of their sales. Furthermore, the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) had issued Sales Tax General Order No.2 of 2022 by which a system-based approach has been adopted to integrate non-integrated Tier-1 retailers with effect from August 01, 2021. If the identified Tier-1 retailers fail to integrate by September 15, 2021, they would be denied credit for input tax equal to 60% claimed in the Sales Tax return for the month of August 2021.

From the past many years, it is considered that property sector in the country is a major destination of all types of black money. Under-declaring or mis-declaring the value of property in order to avoid taxes has become the norm in the country. In certain cases, the declared value of property transaction is as low as 20pc of fair market price. Such a practice has weakened the efforts of documenting the economy. The housing society developers have accumulated enormous wealth by adopting these tactics and avoiding due tax. The money in the property sector is considered as idle and counterproductive for economic growth. It is being suggested to induce money out of property and channelize it towards productive economic sectors that would spur economic growth and result in reduction of unemployment and underemployment.

Necessary changes are being made in Section 68 of the Income Tax Ordinance, 2001. The tax authorities would not use Collector/DC rate as a base to determine property value for assessment of tax rather fair market price of property would be determined by the professional valuers approved by the State Bank of Pakistan to be used as tax base. This initiative to document the fair market value of property transactions is a move in the right direction and requires a must implementation to broaden the tax base. This would not only generate additional tax revenue for balancing the budget but would also document the economy by discouraging lending black money in the real estate. Further, the government has empowered the commissioner to issue notices under section 114 of the Income Tax Ordinance, 2001, to a taxpayer who has not filed tax return for the past ten years. Earlier, the time limitation



for issuance of notice under the said section was five years. With extended tax period, there is ample opportunity for tax authorities to catch non-filers and to recover evaded amount of tax.

In the previous financial year, the government attempted to document the money by imposing withholding tax on bank transactions exceeding Rs50,000 per day to bring the non-taxpayers and non-filers in the tax net. It is because a considerable number of persons

engaged in trading activity are out of tax system. By bringing these persons in the tax net, the number of tax return-filers can be increased significantly.

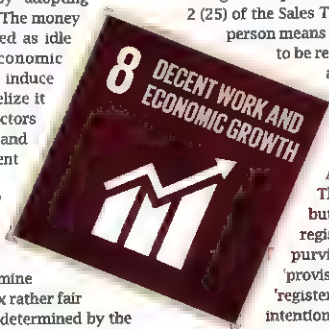
Earlier, the government introduced tax amnesty scheme to bring business capital in the tax net. It was expected that the amnesty would bring thousands of non-filers in the tax net and would yield revenue to the tune of billions but the results fell short of expectations.

Efforts are also being made to enhance the size of formal economy by denying the input tax benefits to unregistered persons under the sales tax regime. Section 2 (25) of the Sales Tax Act, 1990, reads that 'a registered person means a person who is registered or is liable

to be registered under this Act provided that a person liable to be registered but not registered under this Act shall not be entitled to any benefit available to a registered person under any of the provisions of this Act or the rules made there under'.

Thus, not only the registered person but also the one who is liable to be registered under the Act falls within the purview of 'registered person'. The 'proviso' provided in the very definition of 'registered person' is an illustration of the intention of the legislature to enhance the size of formal economy as one of the means adopted by the legislature to achieve the aim of bringing as many persons as possible into the formal economy and to provide incentives to persons who are registered under the Act, while expressly disallowing the same to those who fail to do so. ■

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**T**he report tells us that the consequences of the current global warming crisis are largely irreversible. The most we can do is to prevent all-out ecological collapse.

One of the more sobering findings of the report is that polar and mountain glaciers are likely going to continue to melt, irreversibly, for decades or centuries to come.

Pakistan has more glaciers outside of the polar icecaps than anywhere on earth. The glaciers feed one of the oldest and most fertile valleys on the planet – that of the Indus Basin, split between India and Pakistan. Roughly 75 percent of Pakistan's 216 million population is settled on the banks of the Indus River. Its five largest urban centres are entirely dependent on the river for industrial and domestic water.

Pakistan has been blessed with regular agricultural cycles that have sustained its economy through successive crises. However, if the IPCC Report is correct – which it almost certainly is – by 2050, the country will be out of water.

Pakistan is not the only low-income country facing the impacts of climate change. It is not alone in looking on helplessly as industrialised nations – China and the US being the foremost – drag their heels on lowering emissions. Pakistan, like the Maldives and many other island nations, will suffer from the consequences of global warming disproportionately. However, unlike many countries that have taken up the issue of global emissions at the UN, Pakistan is not doing even the bare minimum to try and secure its future.

To say that this is the largest security issue the country will face in the next few decades would be putting it mildly. No other country is as dependent on non-polar ice for freshwater as Pakistan. No other country stands to lose as much. Yet, Pakistan's government seems singularly unaware of the looming crisis. It has not even made much effort to meet its target of producing 60 percent of its electrical power from renewable sources by 2030. At the moment, the country still gets well over 60 percent of its electricity from fossil fuels.

Pakistan is already facing mounting environmental challenges. Heatwaves are killing scores of people and impacting crop cycles and yields on a regular basis. This year, both its largest city Karachi and its capital city Islamabad experienced

The UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) published its latest report in August 2021, on the heels of one of the hottest and most devastating summers on record: floods in northern Europe and China, wildfires in the US, and heatwaves everywhere.

devastating floods. Furthermore, the 806-kilometre (500-mile) Karakoram Highway, which is a critical part of CPEC – Pakistan's economic corridor with China – was shut down multiple times, for multiple days, due to landslides. These devastating landslides were a direct result of large scale deforestation in the area north of Kohistan and south of Jaglot. Further north towards Shimsbal and east towards the Skardu Valley, timber mafias are rapidly stripping old-growth forests, all but guaranteeing future environmental catastrophes.

Local and international environmental

experts have long been warning that, without urgent and drastic action, things will get worse – both in Pakistan and wider South Asia. They have been warning for over a decade that Pakistan's glaciers are melting and it is only a matter of time before the country runs out of water. Now the IPCC is saying the same in no uncertain terms.

Despite mounting evidence of a growing crisis, however, the Pakistani state is refusing to act.

Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan announced, at the beginning of his term in 2018, the Million Tree Plantation Drive to counter the effects of ongoing deforestation and climate change on the country. This, however, is akin to adding a fourth wheel to a tricycle and hoping it will eventually transform into a driverless electric car. No amount of new tree planting can replace old-growth forests. This is just a fact. The ancient alpine and conifer forests quite literally hold the ecology of northern Pakistan – its glaciers, rivers, and fertile valleys – together. They have taken millennia to grow and stabilise. They are irreplaceable.

Today, Pakistan is facing an existential crisis. The effects of climate change are not threatening a single sector or region of the country, but the lives and livelihoods of its entire population. As this year's IPCC report underlined, we are, sadly, already too late to reverse the damage caused by the rampant consumption of fossil fuels. The choice we are facing now – in Pakistan and around the world – is to continue on a path to certain destruction, or start fighting for our collective survival. ☐

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# IPCC Report and Pakistan

The existential crisis the country faces

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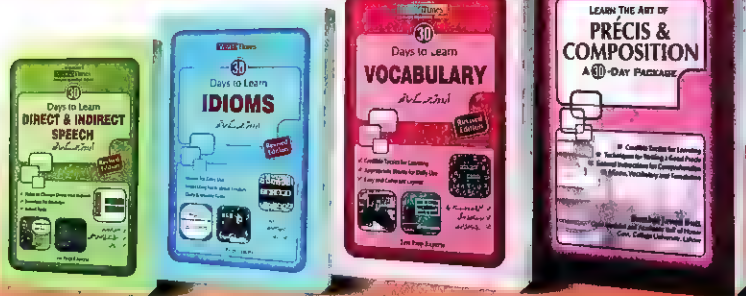
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Arguments must be logical, relevant, coherent and non-clichéd.  
They should also be strengthened by giving and nullifying their counter arguments.

In Conversation with  
**M. Arsalan Gul (FSP)**  
21st in Pakistan  
CSS 2020-21

JWT Editorial Board



**J**ahangir's World Times (JWT): First of all, please tell us about your educational background. **Muhammad Arsalan Gul (MAG):** I did matriculation and FSc from PAF College, Sargodha. Then, I did BE in Mechanical Engineering from Ghulam Ishaq Khan Institute of Engineering Sciences and Technology, KP. Afterwards, I worked as a trainee in SAP Pakistan for a few months. During that period, I changed my profession from mechanical engineering to data science and did few certifications in this field. So, when I went to Australia after my written exam of CSS, I worked as a data analyst at a startup in Sydney.

**JWT:** Since you have been allocated to Foreign Service of Pakistan (FSP), what was the feature of this service that attracted you most?

**MAG:** The most important thing about FSP is that it gives you the kind of exposure that no other group can provide. The chance to represent Pakistan at the highest bodies of the world is very enticing. Also, it is a very challenging job considering the ever-changing dynamics of region as well as the world especially after the coronavirus and the Afghan War. So, it keeps you in a growing environment to remain in sync with the world. Moreover, while in Australia for a year, I interacted with the Pakistani diaspora and got to know their views and what they expect from our foreign office. So, it provided me a good motivation to go for FSP as my second choice.

**JWT:** What, in your opinion, is the key to making a difference in written part of CSS exam?

**MAG:** Acing the written part of CSS exam is a skill and every person has a different approach towards it. So, create a system that suits you best. In order to do that, consider these points: 1. Self-Assessment. You should know what your strengths and weaknesses

are regarding the CSS exam. e.g. what is your study habit, can you study for 8-10 hours daily, can you transfer your thoughts into a well written paragraph in English language, etc.

2. Making notes is a good practice to consolidate all the data regarding a specific topic.

3. Quoting references from recently published books, journals, reports, etc.

4. Instead of cramming every recommended book, try to think in terms of Why, What and How of a topic to develop your analytical skills.

5. Do a lot of written practice to get the required confidence

6. Take mock exams as it is of paramount importance to nullify your anxiety that may overpower you and lead you to failure.

7. Hard work

**JWT:** Generally, compulsory subjects are considered low-scoring, what was your strategy for these?

**MAG:** I adopted a 5-point strategy in this regard:

1. Tackling the hard stuff first, i.e. English Essay, Précis & Composition and Islamiat.

2. Getting essays evaluated and working on mistakes thereof.

3. Not letting English Composition paper get on my nerves. Preparing for all the components rather than just Précis.

4. Studying Islamiat from different, original sources. Quoting ayats in Arabic.

5. For Current Affairs and Pakistan Affairs, aspirants should first get the timeline of events for a specific topic. No need to memorize it, just get the

### My Interview Experience

Being a first-time interviewee, I was a bit nervous. However, I started by introducing myself and my background. The room was filled with other candidates, and the atmosphere was quite formal. The interviewers were dressed in formal attire and seemed to be from various departments. They asked me a series of questions, some of which were related to my academic background and others to my professional experience. I tried to answer them as best as I could, but I felt a bit out of sync. One of the interviewers, who I later found out was J.F. Kennedy, asked me a question about the current state of Pakistan. I was taken aback and didn't know how to answer. I said, "I know half answer. And the panelist said, 'Not the John' half.' And we all burst into laughter. It was a good moment to ease off the tension in the room. The rest of the interview went smoothly.

background knowledge necessary to understand the current events in that domain. Then, start working on Implications, Reasons, Way Forwards of disputes, etc.

**JWT:** How answers should be written to get maximum marks?

**MAG:** The following strategy can be fruitful in this regard:

1. Your answers (in all subjects) should be properly structured with introduction, body and conclusion.
2. Introduction should hit the target in first few lines. Write in simple and plain terms the basic theme of your answer in first few lines of the introduction. Don't focus too much on history.
3. Self-explanatory headings are the key as these facilitate the examiner.
4. Arguments must be logical, relevant, coherent and non-clichéd. They should also be strengthened by giving and nullifying their counter arguments.

**JWT:** Should there be some word limit kept in mind while writing answers?

**MAG:** The general rule is to write 5-6 pages for a 20-mark question. Since you have very limited time at your

disposal, try to complete an answer in 35 minutes. If you think time is running out, give most solid arguments first.

**JWT:** How a new aspirant should start his/her preparations?

**MAG:** A new aspirant needs to adopt the following strategy:

1. Start with getting some general and background knowledge.
2. Assess your strengths and weaknesses in terms of subjects.
3. Identify your strongest and weakest subject without any preparation.
4. Formulate a mental plan to divide time till the commencement of CSS exam.
5. Start slow and gradually gain pace.
6. Find some mentors; they can be really helpful in the start.
7. If it's your first attempt, prepare like it's your last and there are none left.

#### My Tips on

#### Selection of optional subjects

The basic rule to choose optional subjects is to put each subject to test based on these three conditions:

1. **Educational background.** If you have bachelors in Political Science, opt for it. For Engineers, I would suggest

considering mathematics at the start.

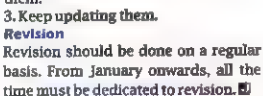
2. **Interest.** If you don't feel a little bit of interest in a subject, don't go for it.
3. **Availability of teacher.** This means that do you have someone who can check your questions and give you a feedback. If not, it's better to go with other subjects.

#### Notes-making

1. Try to consolidate data on one topic, i.e. all events, sources and every bit of info regarding that topic on 2-3 pages. This will help you in revision during mock tests and actual exam
2. Include quotations and other relevant information at the top of the paper, in this way you will remember them.
3. Keep updating them.

#### Revision

Revision should be done on a regular basis. From January onwards, all the time must be dedicated to revision. **E**



### Biography and Details

Your inspiration	My brother
Attempts	01
Qualification	B.E Mechanical Engineering
Alma mater	GIKI
Schooling medium	English
Your study schedule	2-3 hours daily during academy; 8-10 hours daily in last two months
Your sources	Recommended books, research papers, internet resources, credible journals, general books on history and politics, magazines
Group preferences	1. PAS 2. FSP 3. PSP
Why FSP?	Opportunity to work both in the field and in the highest echelons of policymaking.
Hobbies	Reading books, playing football
Fave personality	Holy Prophet (PBUH)
Fave book	The Infinite Game by Simon Sinek
Fave quote	"Victory belongs to the most persevering." — Napoleon
Secret of your success	Getting to know my shortcomings before the actual exams by repeated attempts of written questions and essay, and then improving myself in the light of the feedback
Your role model	Muhammad Ali Jinnah

### Detailed Marks Sheet

Compulsory	100
Essay	100
Practical	100
GSA	100
Current Affairs	100
Pakistan Affairs	100
Islamic Studies	100
Optional Subjects	100
International Relations	100
European History	100
Environmental	100
Science	100
International Law	100
Punjabi	70
Total Written	880
Viva Voce	184
Grand Total	879



## FROM SOLAR CELL TO SOLAR PANEL

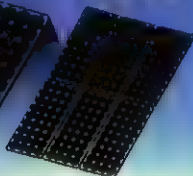
The solar cells are soldered together using metal connectors to link the cells together they form a solar panel.

COMBINING SEVERAL  
**SOLAR PANELS**  
CREATES AN ARRAY

Single Cell



Half Panel



## HOW A SOLAR CELL IS MADE

### STEP 1

#### THE RAW MATERIAL

Most solar panels are made of silicon. It is collected usually in the form of solid rocks or sand.

### STEP 2

#### WAFERS

- The silicon ingot is sliced into thin disks called wafers. A wafer is as thin as a piece of paper.
- An anti-reflective coating is placed on the silicon wafer to facilitate the absorption of sunlight, rather than reflecting it.

### STEP 3

#### INGOT

- High-purity silicon is produced from the raw material in an arc furnace at very high temperatures. It is used to form ingots in the shape of a cylinder.
- Silicon is added to the process.
- After the ingot has cooled down, grinding and polishing are done to give it flat sides.



## WHAT IS A SOLAR PANEL

A device that is composed of solar cells and which when hit by sunlight, generates an electrical current that can be used to power homes or businesses.

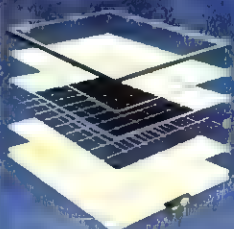
SEVERAL COMPONENTS ARE BROUGHT TOGETHER TO CREATE A FUNCTIONING SOLAR PANEL

Single frame  
Electrically insulating  
Backsheet, thin panel

Cells, wired  
to protect the  
solar cells

Encapsulant  
material  
like epoxy  
resin

Silicon solar  
cells  
Convert the  
Sun's light into  
electricity



## HOW A SOLAR CELL IS MADE

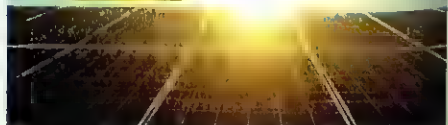
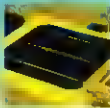
### STEP 4

#### SOLAR CELLS

The silicon wafer is converted into a solar cell capable of converting solar power into electricity.

and metal conductor are added on each surface of the silicon wafer.

- Phosphorous is diffused in a thin layer on the surface.





**Best for CSS  
Interview**

### Highlights

- Communication Skills
- Michael Port's Concept of Modern Interviews
- Necessary Evils before the Interview
- Get Set Ready for any Kind of Interview
- Winning Answers
- Pitfalls to Avoid
- Video Interviews
- International General Knowledge for Interview Success
- INTERVIEWS OF PPSC AND FPSC
- ...& much more

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## MASTERING THE ART OF INTERVIEWS

- Tips to be perfectly confident
- What (not) to do?
- How to impress the panel?
- Drive your interview

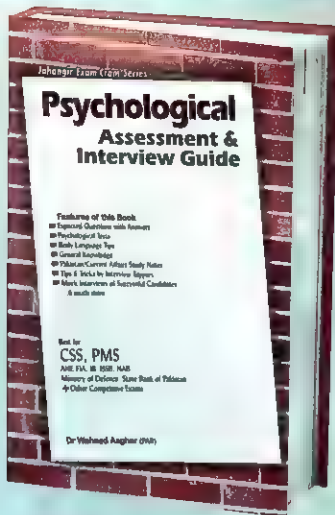


SABA SIBGHAT (CSP)

## Psychological Assessment & Interview Guide

### Highlights

- ✓ Interviews
- ✓ Preparing Interview Questions
- ✓ Competitive Exams (CSS, PMS) Interviews
- ✓ Psychological Examination
- ✓ The Panel Interview
- ✓ Study Material for Interview
- ✓ Dos and Don'ts for an Interview
- ✓ Tips by Toppers
- ✓ Mock Interviews



by Dr Waheed Asghar (PAS)

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## 2021 NOBEL PRIZE IN PHYSIOLOGY/MEDICINE

The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2021 was awarded jointly to David Julius and Ardem Patapoutian for their discoveries of several receptors for temperature and touch.



David Julius identified a gene that made mice sensitive to capsaicin, the "hot" compound in chili peppers. This gene codes for the TRPV1 ion channel, a membrane protein that opens in response to heat and capsaicin. The gene also has two other variants, TRPV2 and TRPV3, which respond to different temperatures and stimuli.

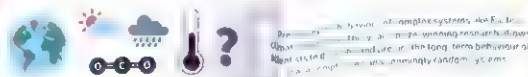
Ardem Patapoutian used a gene which gave off a measurable electric signal when protein X, a gene which, when "turned" on, activates the signal. He used this to identify a gene which, when "turned" on, activates the signal. The gene codes for the Piezo1 ion channel, a membrane protein that opens in response to mechanical stimuli. This channel is found in many cells, including those in the skin, and is involved in the sense of touch.

### WHY DOES THIS RESEARCH MATTER?

This research has helped us to understand how the body senses temperature and touch. It has also helped us to understand how the body senses pain and how it responds to mechanical stimuli. This research has also helped us to understand how the body senses the sense of touch.

## 2021 NOBEL PRIZE IN PHYSICS

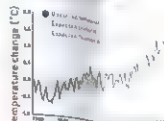
Awarded to Syukuro Manabe and Klaus Hasselmann for physical modelling of the Earth's climate, and to Giorgio Parisi for the discovery of the interplay of disorder and fluctuations in physical systems.



Syukuro Manabe demonstrated how increasing the amount of carbon dioxide in Earth's atmosphere increases temperatures at the Earth's surface. His mathematical models of the Earth's climate informed the climate models used today.



Klaus Hasselmann showed how the Earth's climate system is a complex system involving the interaction of the atmosphere, oceans, and land. His mathematical models of the Earth's climate informed the climate models used today.



Giorgio Parisi showed that in complex systems, which appear to be random, there is a hidden order. His work can explain phenomena, from magnetic behavior in complex materials to the behavior of complex systems in finance and beyond physics.



### WHY DOES THIS RESEARCH MATTER?

The work of this year's winners has helped us understand how humanity influences Earth's climate, and predict how much higher a temperature we can expect. It has also helped us to understand how the behavior of complex systems in finance and beyond physics.

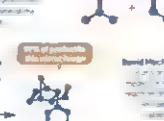
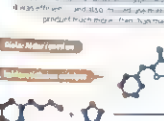
## 2021 NOBEL PRIZE IN CHEMISTRY

Awarded jointly to Benjamin List and David W.C. MacMillan for their development of a new type of catalysis, asymmetric organocatalysis, a precise new tool for molecular construction.



Benjamin List developed a new type of catalysis, asymmetric organocatalysis, which allows for the precise construction of molecules with specific properties.

David W.C. MacMillan developed a new type of catalysis, asymmetric organocatalysis, which allows for the precise construction of molecules with specific properties.



### WHY DOES THIS RESEARCH MATTER?

The work of this year's winners has helped us to understand how to precisely construct molecules with specific properties. This research has also helped us to understand how to precisely construct molecules with specific properties.

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# NOBEL PRIZES

## Nobel for free, independent journalists

Two journalists – Maria Ressa of the Philippines and Dmitry Muratov of Russia – whose work has angered the rulers of their countries, won the 2021 Nobel Peace Prize for their relentless fight for freedom of expression in countries where media outlets have faced persecution.



**MARIA RESSA**  
Philippines

In 2012, Maria Ressa co-founded Rappler, a digital media company for investigative journalism that has received critical attention from President Rodrigo Duterte's "corrosive, murderous and drug campaign" in the Philippines. Her work has led her to "freedom of expression to expose abuse of power, act of violence and growing authoritarianism."

**CHALLENGES SHE FACED**  
She was persecuted by the Philippine government for her work. She was also persecuted by the Russian government for her work.

"I'M A LITTLE SHOCKED, IT'S REALLY EMOTIONAL. BUT I AM HAPPY ON BEHALF OF MY TEAM AND YOU. I'D LIKE TO THANK THE NOBEL COMMITTEE FOR RECOGNIZING WHAT WE ARE DOING. WE'RE NOT ASKING FOR ANYTHING. WE'RE JUST TRYING TO HELP."



**DMITRY MURATOV**  
Russia

Dmitry Muratov is the founder of the independent Russian newspaper Novaya Gazeta, which has been persecuted by the Russian government. He has been persecuted by the Russian government for his work.

**CHALLENGES HE FACED**  
He was persecuted by the Russian government for his work. He was also persecuted by the Russian government for his work.

"WE WILL USE THE AWARD TO SHOW UP RUSSIAN JOURNALISM THAT HAS FACED REPRESSIONS. WE WILL TRY TO HELP THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN DESIGNATED AS AGENTS HAVE FACED PERSECUTION OUT OF THE COUNTRY."

**THE FIRST WOMAN**  
She is the first woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize.



## SEEKING TRUTH FROM THE FACTS CAREFULLY

### THE AWARDEES

This year's Nobel Peace Prize has been awarded jointly to Maria Ressa and Dmitry Muratov. They are the first journalists to win the Nobel Peace Prize.

### WHY THIS YEAR'S PRIZE MATTERS?

The Nobel Peace Prize is a symbol of the world's commitment to peace. It is a symbol of the world's commitment to peace.

### WHAT HAVE THE AWARDEES GIVEN TO THE WORLD?

The award has given the world a symbol of the world's commitment to peace. It has given the world a symbol of the world's commitment to peace.

The award has given the world a symbol of the world's commitment to peace. It has given the world a symbol of the world's commitment to peace.

The award has given the world a symbol of the world's commitment to peace. It has given the world a symbol of the world's commitment to peace.



## RECAP: 2021'S NOBEL LAUREATES

The Nobel Prize is a symbol of the world's commitment to peace. It is a symbol of the world's commitment to peace.

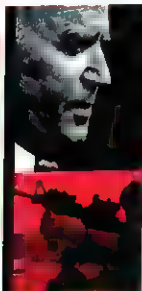




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Afghanistan is considered a gateway to Central Asia, South Asia and the Middle East. It is due to this reason that this country holds a unique and important position in international politics. However, this significance has also been a curse for this country as it was attacked multiple times by world's great powers – the latest being in the form of the US-led war on terrorism. But, it is also an indubitable fact that none of them could control this country, making it a proverbial 'Graveyard of Empires'.

8

## Blunders that Foretold American Defeat in Afghanistan



After a 20-year-long war, the United States has left Afghanistan defeated and humiliated, as in the words of General Mark Milley, chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff: "It is clear, it is obvious to all of us, that the war [in Afghanistan] did not end on the terms we wanted, with the Taliban in power in Kabul." Calling the war a strategic failure, during a committee hearing about the US troop pullout from Afghanistan and the chaotic evacuation from the capital Kabul, Gen Milley said, "It wasn't lost in the last 20 days or even 20 months ... There's a cumulative effect to a series of strategic decisions that go way back."

In the following write-up, we will try to find out eight blunders that the United States committed in Afghanistan and how they contributed to humiliating defeat that the world's sole superpower has faced.

**1.** The United States joined the chronic regional political wrangling by becoming a part of proxy wars between India and Pakistan, and Saudi Arabia and Iran, in utter ignorance of what British historians have enumerated as a cause of failure in Afghanistan. The US sought to give greater role to India so as to prevent Pakistan and China from gaining an influence in this country. Obviously, policymakers from Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and China could not afford an opportunity to the United States and its allies to work against their interests. So, Afghanistan became a hedge-podge of interests of regional country and war on terror turned into a war of interests.

**2.** The second blunder was made at the time of the formation of the Afghan government with Hamid Karzai as its head. This step virtually left Pashtuns, who are around 42% in Afghanistan's population, out of the corridors of power. When minority rules the majority, the results are always catastrophic as did happen in the case of Afghanistan where most Pashtuns supported the Taliban.

**3.** Americans also ignored the sovereignty-related issues of the Afghan government, despite repeated warnings by

Mian Majid Ali Afzal

Afghan Presidents Hamid Karzai and Ashraf Ghani. Initially, NATO commander and later US commander were considered de facto rulers of Afghanistan. This is what became problematic for the Afghan community who didn't trust their government.

**4.** The fourth blunder is related to the training of the Afghan army that completely ignored their basic issues of literacy and professional command. Moreover, Afghan army, like the Afghan government, was taken from the minority segments of Afghan population.

**5.** Americans also utterly failed to own the ordinary Afghans at the grassroots level. They roped in tribal sardars and warlords of which common Afghans were wary.

**6.** A serious lack of proper planning and policymaking for sustainable peace in Afghanistan also contributed to US' defeat. Instead of respecting and adhering to the cultural norms of the locals' populaces, the US resorted to honour the liberal and secular voices – they listened to what they wanted.

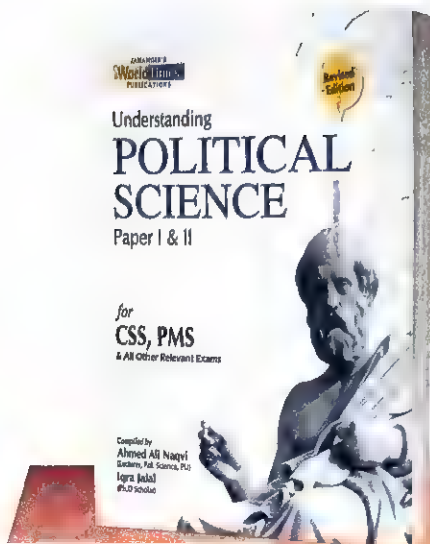
**7.** Seventh major blunder of the United States was not taking Afghanistan's neighbouring countries on board for the broader spectrum of regional peace and order on the same footing. American interest in Afghanistan was not based on a win-win exposition rather it sought to dominate neighbouring countries particularly Iran, Pakistan and China.

**8.** Last but not least, the United States failed to make Afghanistan economically independent from the donors as around 75% of the Afghan economy was dependent on American aid and that from donors under US influence. ■

*The writer is an author of The Reforms. He is serving as a Strategic & Administrative Adviser at a CPEC-based project in Islamabad. He is also a member of Anti-Drug Task Force Punjab.*  
mianmajid582@gmail.com

## HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Western & Muslim Political Thoughts
- ★ Political Concept (Western & Islamic)
- ★ Comparative Politics
- ★ Political Institutions & Role of Government
- ★ Forms of Government
- ★ Political Ideologies
- ★ Local Self-government
- ★ Global and Regional Integration
- ★ Political Movements in India
- ★ Government & Politics in Pakistan
- ★ International Relations
- ...& much more



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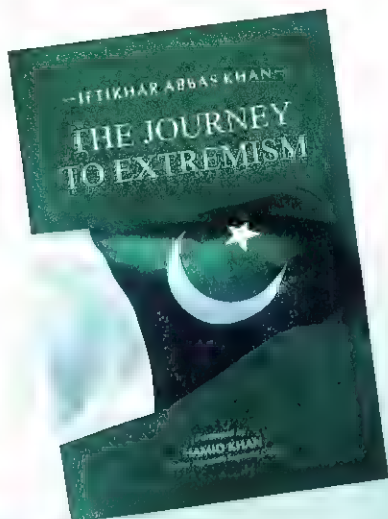
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## HIGHLIGHTS

- Quaid's Ideology of Pakistan
- Religious Parties & Pakistan Movement
- Bhutto's Islamisation in The Aftermath of Debarcle of East Pakistan
- Sectarianism and Militancy
- Gen. Musharraf Regime
- Afghan Crisis and Its Implications for Pakistan
- External Forces and Domestic Policies
- Dark Days of Judiciary
- Problems for Pakistan Due to The Taliban Regime
- Brutal Repression In Occupied Kashmir
- Fall out of Attackson Pathankot & Bacha Khan University
- Madrasa Education and The State

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**J**ahangir's World Times (JWT): First of all, please tell us about your educational background?

**Faisal Imran (FM):** Since I hail from a village in District Okara, I got my education till matriculation from a local government school. Later on, I did FSc from Sahiwal. Subsequently, I managed to secure an admission to FC College, Lahore, from where I did BA (Hons.) in Political Science. Getting into FC College helped me develop a strong penchant for reading and concomitant co- and extracurricular activities. It was during my last year at University that I got attracted towards civil services and started preparing for the competitive exams.

**JWT: How much helpful did you find Jahangir's World Times (JWT) in your preparation for PMS exam?**

**FM:** There is no denying the fact that availability of right kind of reading material goes a long way in helping one do well in the competitive exams. I must confess that I have been a regular reader of JWT magazine, and it assisted me in my preparation in a number of ways; ranging from widening my knowledge base to improving my analytical skills.

**JWT: What, in your opinion, is the key to getting through compulsory papers of PMS exam, especially that of General Knowledge?**

**FM:** Given my experience and long journey of

competitive exams, I would say that one must pick around 20 most important questions/areas in a subject, and then prepare those thoroughly. One should also write answers to those questions within the time limit - in exam setting - and get them evaluated from a sincere mentor to figure out flaws and make requisite improvement.

**JWT: How answers should be written to get maximum marks in the written part of PMS exam?**

**FM:** Competitive exams are all about written. The examiner is going to assess a candidate based on what he/she has produced on the answer sheet. Therefore, the key to scoring well is having a good written expression; being relevant to the topic; giving self-explanatory headings and, most importantly, reflecting nuanced and incisive understanding of the issue under consideration.

#### Advice for fresh aspirants

The journey of competitive exams demands hard work, persistence, perseverance, patience and humility. If you prepare honestly, you will, surely, be crowned with success.

**JWT: How did you structure your Essay?**

**FM:** I scored 55 in Essay paper in CSS-2016 and 66 in CSS-2018. My approach towards essay entails writing an outline in the form of self-explanatory sentences, avoiding ambiguity, vagueness and sweeping statements, while being very relevant and logical. Furthermore, writing a well-articulated and coherent introduction increases the prospects of an essay being awarded good marks.

In Conversation with

**Faisal Imran**

**3<sup>rd</sup>** in Punjab,  
PMS 2020-21





## Rapid Fire

Your inspiration	Sir Shahid Rasheed, Founder of Zaawiyah School, and my teacher at Forman Christian College
Attempts	02
Schooling medium	Urdu
Your qualification	BA (Hons.)
Alma mater	Forman Christian College
Your study schedule	8-10 hours a day
Your sources	Books, magazines and YouTube
Your hobbies	Reading and playing cricket
Your strength	Hard work and consistency
Fave personality	Dr Ruth Pfau
Fave book	My Experiments With Truth by MK Gandhi
Fave quote	"Success is not final; failure is not fatal. It is the courage to continue that counts." — Winston Churchill
Secret of your success	Hard work and belief in myself
Your role model	My father

**JWT:** Since you have scored excellent marks in optional subjects, what was your strategy for these papers?

**FM:** The reason I managed to score well in these papers is that I attempted questions from past papers of these subjects repeatedly. It gave me enough confidence, increased my writing speed, and helped in enriching my expression as well.

**JWT:** Should there be some word limit kept in mind while writing answers?

**FM:** There are no hard and fast rules here. One must make sure that all the aspects of a question have been addressed satisfactorily. However, answers shouldn't be prolonged unnecessarily as it often proves counterproductive. Adding extra sheets just for the sake of it is always inadvisable.

**JWT:** Is it better to attempt optional papers in Urdu or one should go with English only?

**FM:** It is purely a personal choice. However, since competitive exams look for the level of proficiency in English, going with Urdu may not be a good idea.

**JWT:** How one should choose Optional Subjects?

**FM:** Optional subjects should be chosen based on one's interest, academic background and overlapping of content with other subjects. Rumours pertaining to scoring trend ought not to be taken at their face value.

**JWT:** Who deserves the credit for your success?

**FM:** Mr Abaid Shah, my friend-cum-brother and mentor, deserves all the credit for my success. He remained a source of consistent support and encouragement.

**JWT:** As interviewers usually grill the interview candidates, how did you manage the situation?

**FM:** It goes without saying that performing well in interview is a big challenge. However, I practiced a lot prior to my interview in the form of mock interviews with my friends. That made me feel calm, poised and confident on the day of interview. I kept my cool, despite dropping a couple of questions. Being fluent in English and giving structured answers really helped me in scoring well in interview. ■

## Detailed Marks Sheet

Subject	Marks
<b>Compulsory Subjects</b>	
English Essay	40
	69
General Knowledge	59
Urdu	80
Pakistan Affairs	69
Islamic Studies	69
<b>Optional Subjects</b>	
Political science	143
Philosophy	142
Punjabi	148
<b>Total Written</b>	<b>817</b>
Viva Voce	160.4
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>977</b>





## Pakistan and the 'Grey List'

### Has the watchdog become a weapon of coercion?

On October 21, at the conclusion of its three-day plenary meeting, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) — the global body working to combat financing of terrorism and money laundering — unanimously decided to keep Pakistan on its grey list, saying that Islamabad still did not meet the “strategically important” condition about nominating entities and individuals, who should be put on the UN list of terror outfits and persons. Although the watchdog ruled out the possibility of blacklisting the country as it had implemented the majority of the conditions, it asserted that Pakistan needs to further demonstrate that investigations and prosecutions are being pursued against the senior leadership of UN-designated terror groups

Ayeza Fatima

**I**t has become almost a routine now that the Paris-based Financial Action Task Force (FATF) praises Pakistan for its hard work to meet the criteria to come out of its so-called grey list but, at the same time, keeps the country's status unchanged. This saga was repeated on October 21 when the FATF announced that

Pakistan will remain on its increased monitoring list, also called the grey list. This all happened at a time when there were great expectations in Islamabad that the country would be taken out of the grey list as it has met almost all conditions.

Announcing the decision, FATF President Dr Marcus Pleyer said that Pakistan had to complete two concurrent action plans with a total of 34 items. “It has now addressed or largely addressed

30 of the items,” he said, adding that of the 27 action points agreed under the June 2018 plan, 26 had been implemented — a position that remained unchanged since then. Although four out of the seven action plan items are now addressed or largely addressed, the remaining condition of the June 2018 plan is the most crucial one. The FATF announcement read: “Pakistan should continue to work to address its other strategically important AML/CFT [anti-money laundering and terrorist financing]

deficiencies, namely by providing evidence that it actively seeks to enhance the impact of sanctions beyond its jurisdiction by nominating additional individuals and entities for designation at the UN.”

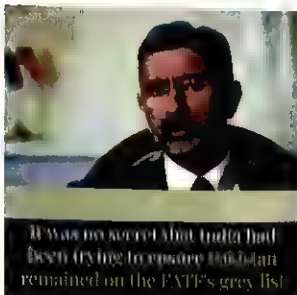
It added that Islamabad should demonstrate an increase in money laundering investigations and prosecutions and that proceeds of crime continue to be



restrained and confiscated in line with the country's risk profile, including working with foreign counterparts to trace, freeze and confiscate assets.

Although FATF President said that the entire process of scrutiny and assessment was on technical parameters, and there was no element of bias in it, the perception in Pakistan that India in particular, and Western nations in general, have been applying pressure on Islamabad through the FATF/APG forum is not wrong. We have seen the watchdog move the goalposts away in recent months. The statements from India to this effect confirm these perceptions. This perception is further augmented by the fact that some nations were let off the hook in the past for doing far less than what Pakistan accomplished in the drive to control illicit flows of money over the last three years.

Western nations and India are pressuring Pakistan through the FATF forum to target eight groups - the Afghan Taliban, Jamaat-ud-Dawa (JuD), Haqqani Network, Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), Falah-e-Insaniyat Foundation, al-Qaeda and Islamic State. These demands have become unrealistic in essence, because some of these entities and their leaders are, interestingly, now part of the interim Afghan government. That makes it impossible for Pakistan to move against them. The FATF is being used to pressure Pakistan to tame some of the militant and proscribed outfits that are out of its de jure reach. How can Islamabad prevail over Tehrik-e-Taliban Afghanistan, Al Qaeda and ISIS, and many of their



affiliates who are on the run and do not maintain books with any accredited institution in Pakistan? So, keeping Pakistan in the grey list is indubitably disappointing. That this decision seems to be more politically motivated than on actual merits is evident. It is no coincidence that the Indian foreign minister released a statement asserting that the Narendra Modi government had ensured Pakistan remained on the grey list, vindicating Pakistan's long-standing stance on "India's negative role" in the global financial watchdog.

The good point, nonetheless, is that Pakistan is complying, and has every intention to come out of the woods. Federal Minister Hammad Azhar hopes Pakistan would complete the required process in a couple of months, and stand out uprightly. Reports testify Pakistan has smartly put

its house in order, convicted more than 150 people in money-laundering, and come down hard on terror financing channels - an aspect acknowledged by FATF and international donors. This progression was more than enough to take the country off the grey list, but it seems perceptual enigmas prevail at times. FATF members must recognise that Pakistan officially calls for acting against flight of capital, and advocates a mechanism to curb such a tendency. Pushing Pakistan to the wall with a hidden agenda is regrettable. FATF should take note

of its loud thinking. ☐

*The writer is a student at UMT, Lahore.*

### Turkey's Inclusion

In this plenary, the FATF also added Turkey to its grey list, citing the country's failure to avert money laundering. The FATF head Dr Pleyer told a news conference that Turkey, the largest to be downgraded, needs to address "serious issues of supervision" in its banking and real estate sectors, and with gold and precious stones dealers. He said that an assessment was carried out on Turkey in 2019 which outlined serious issues regarding money laundering and terror financing. "Turkey has made progress in some areas, but issues remain," he said, adding that it needed to show it is effectively addressing money laundering cases and terror financing. In response to this move, Turkey's government took exception to the group's decision calling it unfair and an "undeserved result," given all of its compliance work. However, Ankara insisted that it will work closely with the organisation to address its concerns in a bid to come out of the "unwarranted list within the shortest time." "Despite coordination studies, putting our country on the grey list has created a result that is 'unwarranted'" Turkish Treasury and Finance Ministry said in a statement. The government "will continue to take necessary steps in cooperation with FATF and all related institutions and make sure that our country emerges from this listing that it does not deserve as soon as possible," the statement read.





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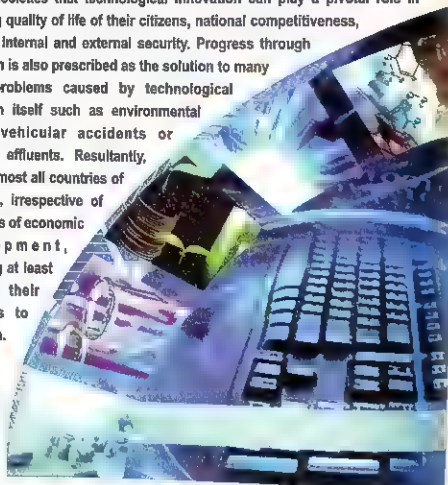
# THE INNOVATION IMPERATIVE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF PAKISTAN

Muhammad Faizan Athar Lone

**T**he mind-boggling, meteoric rise of East Asia over the past five decades is well known to the entire world. Enviably track record of several economies of this region in sustaining rapid growth and alleviating poverty has been well documented by various multilateral organizations such as the World Bank, Asian Development Bank and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. Lesser developed states, like Pakistan, can learn many lessons from the success stories of East Asian countries. The major growth engine of the East Asian economies was export-oriented manufacturing. The productivity growth of these economies was based on scientific and technological advancements which resulted in innovative outputs for the global consumers, ergo premium for them in the international markets. Innovation-led growth has, in fact, played a pivotal role in the development of many states in East Asia such as South Korea and Singapore.

For low- and middle-income countries, like Pakistan, that have varied institutional, technological and firm-level capacities, "innovation" entails not only the invention of

Technological innovation is closely linked with any nation's human development, economic growth, industrialization, entrepreneurialism and modernization. Not only these, it is also essential for the defence of a country. Economic thought of the last several decades has, therefore, stressed upon all nations to indulge into an incessant quest for technological innovation. There is a strong realization in most modern societies that technological innovation can play a pivotal role in improving quality of life of their citizens, national competitiveness, and their internal and external security. Progress through innovation is also prescribed as the solution to many of the problems caused by technological innovation itself such as environmental issues, vehicular accidents or industrial effluents. Resultantly, we see almost all countries of the world, irrespective of their levels of economic development, dedicating at least some of their resources to innovation.



new products and processes at the Industry 4.0 frontier but also the diffusion and adoption of existing technologies or practices. These more basic forms of innovation can yield big payoffs in the relatively poorer countries. Pakistan underperforms on several key measures of innovation such as government and business expenditure on research and development, grant of patents, number of full-time researchers in science and technology sectors and that of research articles published in quality journals in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. The number of firms in Pakistan engaging in any type of innovative activity is miniscule, to say it mildly.

There are several reasons for low technological and innovative capabilities of the Pakistani industry. Innovation is costly and risky, and the results of innovative activity may come with a long lag. All these factors act as prohibitive forces stifling innovation in Pakistan. Moreover, Pakistani firms lack requisite information on the technologies that may transform their productivity. They also face uncertainty regarding the returns the use of these technologies offers. The capacity of the Pakistani firms to innovate is also constrained due to inadequate management capabilities and low workforce skills. Besides this, businesses in Pakistan often lack access to external financing for technology adoption or carrying out broader innovation projects. Pakistani policymakers need to reorient innovation policy to a focus on incentivizing and encouraging the local firms to simply start innovating. It is the broad adoption and diffusion of the existing technologies - not only invention of new ones - that will determine the pace of economic growth and productivity in Pakistan in the coming years. The industrial cooperation component of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has opened up an unprecedented window of opportunity for Pakistan to leapfrog and catch up technologically with China, the country that is now becoming a fast-growing innovative economy. Many Chinese companies are expected to relocate to the nine special economic zones being established in Pakistan under the CPEC project. Pakistani firms can learn from their Chinese counterparts and start innovating for producing competitive products for the international markets.

A technology- and innovation-oriented industrial policy will benefit Pakistan in many ways.

Firstly, the chronic current account deficit can be overcome. By selling innovative products in the foreign markets, Pakistan can earn a hefty amount of valuable foreign exchange through a substantial increase in its exports.

Secondly, the semi-skilled and skilled labour in the Pakistani economy will get employment which will enhance the overall growth of the country and will effect a fall in poverty levels.

Thirdly, the knowledge infrastructure of the country will redesign itself to produce cutting-edge research for the industrial needs, which will, in turn, improve the human capital in Pakistan that may allow entrepreneurship to flourish.

Finally, Pakistan can achieve sustainable economic growth that will help the country develop and improve the overall living standards of its population.

Innovation can surely lead Pakistan towards prosperity. To begin with, industries in traditionally strong sectors such as textiles and agriculture can be chosen for policy intervention from the state. Gradually, other sectors, such as medium tech engineering and pharmaceuticals, can be

brought under the scope of innovation, changing Pakistan's economic structure and propelling the country towards prosperity and wealth creation. ■

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The dynamics of regional cooperation has a wider role to play for peace, development and cooperation in the world. Intra-regional cooperation creates catalytic impact in addressing the recent challenges of poverty, development and terrorism. In the context of Afghanistan, regional cooperations like the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC), and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) are positive ways to strengthen the economic growth and stability in a situation when the country is inflamed by constant insurgency.

**S**ince the US withdrawal from Afghanistan after a long war spanning around two decades, the situation in this war-ravaged country has changed rapidly. The world is still amazed at the manner and pace with which the Afghan Taliban have gained control over the entire Afghanistan – without any bloodshed and in a short period of time. From the initial actions taken by the Interim Taliban government and the announcements it made immediately after taking over the country – e.g. announcement of a general amnesty and some other steps that helped prevent the chaos – it seems that, unlike in the past, the attitude of the Taliban has softened. That is a good omen for peace in this country. A peaceful Afghanistan offers a lot of opportunities for the economic development of this part of the world. Seeing these opportunities, China has announced financial assistance for Afghanistan. Pakistan has also sent relief goods

M. Usman Butt  
there in a spirit of goodwill, which will surely bring relief to the people there. For the first time since 1973, Afghanistan has a government that controls the whole of the country. China and Russia have openly supported the Taliban as it is in their interest to help them and to bail them out in the current difficult situation. Pakistan, too, has persistently urged the world to give Taliban time to install a government and run the country in a smooth manner. Pakistan has the potential to achieve peace and stability in the region. In the past, some movements in China, Russia and Pakistan have supported the Taliban, but now they are assuring that Afghanistan's territory will not be used against any country. This situation will also benefit Pakistan as it will be able to strike gas deals with Central Asian countries and, above all, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project. It's a golden opportunity and we need to take advantage of it wisely.

**Afghanistan and Regional Connectivity**

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**Harnessing the Economic Potential of South and Central Asia**



Although the Taliban government has, before it, huge challenges on both external and internal fronts, the most formidable is an economy that is on the verge of collapse. The country's economy was already extremely fragile, heavily dependent on aid — a nation is considered aid dependent when 10% more of its gross

domestic product (GDP) comes from foreign aid; in Afghanistan's case, about 40% of its GDP was international aid, according to the World Bank.

When it became clear that the Taliban would gain control of Kabul, Western powers, including the United States and Germany, suspended foreign aid to the country.

The US Federal Reserve has "frozen" all of Afghanistan's foreign exchange reserves in its hands, amounting to some \$7 billion. While intended to block misuse of these funds by the Taliban, this action also means that Afghanistan's central bank has no ability to manage the exchange rate by trading its dollar and other reserves for the local currency, potentially leading to a collapse of the afghani, a plunging exchange rate and hyperinflation.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has similarly frozen the Afghan government's access to IMF resources (its so-called Special Drawing Rights, or SDR), which otherwise could have been deployed to help manage both the balance of payments and the government finances. The SDRs include Afghanistan's \$450 million share from the global IMF quota increase in response to Covid, which countries are supposed to have access to automatically.

Along with other donors such as Germany, the World Bank has stopped all disbursements of its own resources and donor-contributed Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund money to Afghanistan — including



OR

both direct support to the Afghan budget and high-priority

development projects such as basic public health and rural development.

The Asian Development Bank also has suspended disbursements.

So, meeting the basic needs of the Afghan people is a huge challenge for the Taliban and combating it is not possible without external cooperation. China, Russia and Pakistan should help them in every possible way. China's interests are more related to Afghanistan than Pakistan, the success of OBOR and CPEC project is linked to peace and stability in Afghanistan. China has played a good role in tackling the current difficult situation by announcing \$300 million in aid to Afghanistan. This will bring some relief to the Afghan people.

Afghanistan can also harness its potential as the "heart of Asia" and connect the South and Central Asian regions. The five Central Asian countries have been isolated to the south by war-torn Afghanistan, to the east by rough terrain with nearly impassable mountains, and to the west by Iran, making engagement with South Asia both implausible and difficult. And though connecting the

regions completely would be a lengthy process requiring the expansion and improvement of infrastructure across Afghanistan, achieving it would unlock opportunities for all.

Afghanistan, building infrastructure to integrate the regions would stimulate the country's fragile economy; and for

South and Central Asian countries, doing so would not only increase regional engagement but also serve their economic interests and open up access to new markets.

Such infrastructure would increase trade and the flow of people and ideas between both regions — and the additional flow would stimulate innovation, job

creation, and economic growth. Regional connectivity is also crucial to harnessing the economic potential of South and

Central Asia's youth bulge; the median age in both regions is 27.6 years old. Given these potential benefits, South and Central

Asian countries have a strong incentive to partner in support of a stable, peaceful and

### Importance of Regional cooperation for Afghanistan

The motive of regional cooperation is to strengthen its goals of economic, social and cultural relations at an unprecedented level by the developing countries. Over the years, Afghanistan's security situation has been intensified with rising violence and an effort to overcome the conflict, the government has adopted various mechanisms with the help of international community for establishing stability. The concept of regional cooperation is based on the policy coordination and cooperation among the member states.

In the light of Afghanistan's situation regional cooperation can bring forth lot of productive endeavours in order to improve the prevailing situation through cooperation. At this standpoint, it is important to review how Afghanistan's regional cooperation has actually provided novel path of development and to what extent did the regional cooperation in economic, security, political and cultural domains is contributing for the growth and stability. In recent years, regional cooperation has constituted in adding new dimensions in the process of sustainable economic growth and has created opportunities in establishing a shared regional identity for Afghanistan.

democratic Afghanistan.

Energy infrastructure projects are already underway to connect the regions: The Central Asia-South Asia Electricity Transmission Project (CASA-1000) will send surplus hydropower in Central Asia to communities in South Asia, while the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan Power Interconnection Project will help support power trade among the parties and the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline will run gas throughout the participating countries. A more comprehensive project, the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Program, brought together eleven countries across Central, South, and East Asia to promote development. But new road and railway infrastructure will be essential to open corridors and maximize the benefits of

through China to access the global market and overcome both its isolation and its dependence on Russia and China. Regional connectivity would also help restart Afghanistan's fragile economy, most notably by connecting Afghanistan to the region's largest market in India.

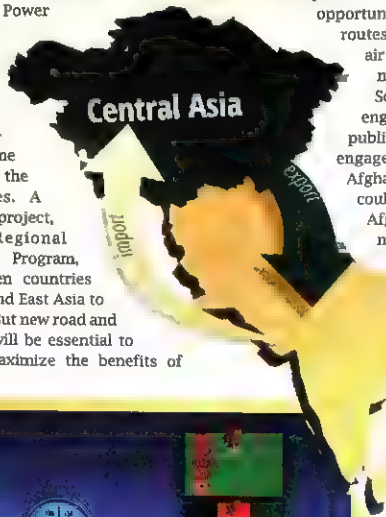
Improved infrastructure would offer countries the opportunity to trade an array of goods via land routes that are more cost efficient than existing air routes. The economic links that come with new infrastructure would also encourage South and Central Asian countries to engage with Afghanistan through both the public and private sectors. Private-sector engagement could increase investment in Afghanistan, while public-sector engagement could encourage governments to incorporate Afghanistan into regional programming and multilateral initiatives such as the US-Central Asia platform C5+1.

Pakistan, too, would benefit from a peaceful Afghanistan. A direct land route to Central Asia through Afghanistan would provide Pakistan a more efficient and convenient alternative to its current routes through Iran or China. With this connection, Pakistan would be able to access new markets for its goods and strengthen ties with its Muslim-majority neighbours—two opportunities that are key to fulfilling a pillar of its 2025 vision, which aims to modernize transportation infrastructure and greater regional connectivity, along with the country's goal of refocusing its foreign policy around geoeconomics. Pakistan could, for instance, leverage its strong agriculture sector to provide short-term food relief to Turkmenistan, where the Covid-19 pandemic has

exacerbated an existing food crisis. This exchange would lay the foundations for a long-term partnership.

Afghanistan can leverage its strategic geopolitical position to not only begin to rebuild its economy but also to help the region achieve greater prosperity. Yet that only underscores the need for countries in the region to prioritize the task of crafting consensus for peace in Afghanistan, a necessary condition to harness this untapped potential. ■

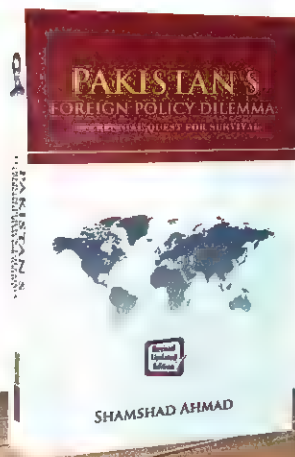
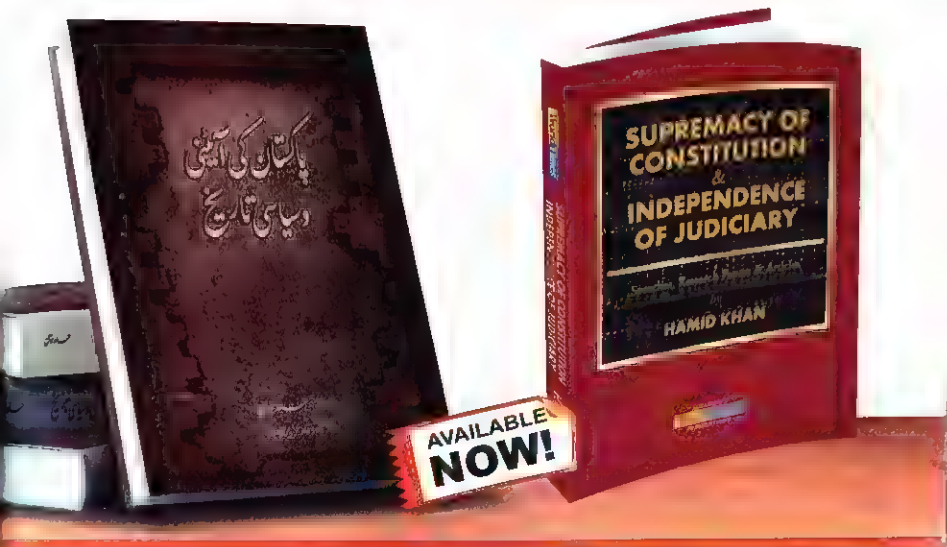
*The writer is a member of staff*



regional connectivity.

All five Central Asian countries are landlocked and, in a geographical sense, partially surrounded by two major powers: Russia and China. Economically, too, Central Asia is surrounded: Russia and China tend to dominate the region's imports and exports. Creating land corridors through Afghanistan would give the Central Asian countries access to Iran in one direction and to Pakistan, India, and the greater Indo-Pacific region in another. Doing so would also provide Central Asia with alternatives to its inefficient and expensive routes

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# MINISTERIAL DUTIES

## A rucksack of Conventions

Mawra Raja



Practically, Conventions work together as a cluster of high moral standards for senior government machinery to abide by. The first to stand out is the confidence principle. Under it, the government is expected to get its proposal through the Commons and Lords usually in the form of a Bill. In so doing, it has to watch out for rejection on its major policies, typically those related to expenditure, taxation and manifesto undertakings. If, for whatever reason, a government loses the majority legislative support, it is pushed out of office by a motion of no confidence. The follow-up two weeks are spent looking for a political party with command of the House. In its absence, a call for early general election is made—hitting the public pocket hard—position that is a recent fixture brought up by the Fixed Term Parliament Act, 2011.

The second is the confidentiality principle. It deters ministers from giving away government secrets. Both incumbent and outgoing ministers are caught by it. Strictly speaking, retired ministers are not allowed to disclose Cabinet discussions for as long as ten years since their resignation as clearly set out in Attorney General v Jonathon Cape (1976).

The third is the unanimity principle. It requires government to speak up with one voice on matters of utmost importance. It extends to taking united position on policies in the parliament and the public. Ministers are duty-bound to vote in favour of a policy going through the legislative houses. Sitting quiet is taken as a blatant breach and is treated with irresistible calls for immediate resignation, with final call by the PM. In the public gaze, they have to give supporting statements about the government proposals to bridge the democratic deficit.

This enjoins them to exercise their freedom of expression to resonate with the overall philosophy of the government except in two situations: One is where difference of opinion, due to fear of internal crumbling, is authorized by the PM. An example from 2016 is David Cameron's suspension of the cabinet consensus over referendum on the continuing membership of European Union, despite his campaign for 'stay'. The other is when the government has not taken a policy position and has left it to the individual ministers to condemn or condone the issue.

The story of what the British ministers must do starts out with conventions, in the absence of any statutory guidance on the same. Conventions are constitutional rules of behaviour for Her Majesty the Queen, the Prime Minister and the government. They have a binding force in the absence of a statute due to the distressing resignation and unwanted dishonour they force on politicians. This is the position despite their unenforceability by the British courts. The judiciary, at the most, is constrained to confirm their existence if a doubt is ever cast as set out in *Re Amendment to the Constitution of Canada case* (1981). In fact, as a rule of thumb, they cannot be used by the judiciary as a wheel for assessing the probity of ministerial conduct. Even as a last resort, the judges cannot invoke them for ministerial resignation. This is pursuant to the fact that the prime minister is the final arbiter of political choices: an understanding that is mindful of institutional separation of powers but keeps ministers out of judicial oversight.





In addition, individual ministers owe certain character and departmental duties. Taken together, they are called individual ministerial responsibility. Regarding first, financial and personal soundness is vital. As per the Ministerial Code, 2019, ministers have to register their financial interests in the e Register of Members' or Peers' Interests. They have to keep an official record of the assets owned by them and the gifts taken by them that are likely to compromise their transparency. Regarding their personal conduct, they are expected to speak the truth to Parliament, even if they are asked about private matters like intimacy or pornography scandals. Dishonesty is taken seriously and often becomes a rigorous ground for resignation. On top of it, they are bound by seven principles of public life including selflessness, objectivity, accountability, leadership, honesty, integrity and openness. This aims to ensure governance by the morally fittest but is not always adhered to.

On the other hand, they are responsible for their departments. Most of them are huge with a large staff and multiple activities going on at different tiers. Keeping an eye from helm down to the grassroots is a challenge and, perhaps, unrealistic. On this view, the Crichton Down accountability, which forces a minister to resign for anything that goes wrong in his/her department, is impractical. A better view is responsibility for reckless delegation. A minister should devolve work to a diligent junior and make decisions in the light of substantial evidence. This is in line with the reasoning in *Carltona Ltd v Commissioner of Works* (1943) and *R (on the application of Javed) v*

Secretary of State for the Home Department (2001). After the escape of the prisoners from the Maze Prison, a new line of reasoning has come up often pigeonholed as the Michael Howard accountability. Under it, ministers are not responsible for policy implementation. Their call of duty is confined to substantive merit of the policy. For former, they are under no imperative to resign because they can change the enforcement staff. Their only duty is to offer explanations of fault to the Parliament and take actions to rectify it so as to avoid recurrence. As regards the latter, they are personally responsible and must resign.

However, the recent Priti Patel scandal 2021 bears witness to the fact that the ultimate fate of the falling out minister lies with the Prime Minister. As documented by Sir Alex Report, Ms Patel had been found in breach of the Ministerial Code. Yet ignoring the findings, the man in the cockpit gave his verdict not to fire her as he was sure of her righteous conduct.

To conclude, one can say that conventions are the key to understanding ministerial duties in the British legal system. They are a moral blueprint for effective governance that guides top-notch politicians without judicial intervention. This makes political choices easier but gives the top head of the government unbridled power for deciding contempt of conventions. ■



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Plato is regarded as one of the most influential, persuasive and celebrated political theorists. He

was born in an aristocratic family in Athens around 427 BC and lived until 347 BC. The dialogues of Plato were

influenced heavily by the teachings of Socrates. His ideas and thoughts have profoundly impacted his social and political

experiences – empirical

knowledge. In his work, Plato

has advocated creating,

implementing and sustaining

the values of justice in a polis.

Plato propounded the notion of

communism in the city-state,

which is in sheer contrast with

the idea of communism in

modern political philosophy.

The main features of Plato's

communism consist of the

abolition of private property and

of the family – wives, and

children. Plato propagated that,

in some cases, giving a man

what belongs to him could be

harmful to him. Not all men

make good or wise use of their

properties – land, women and

children. Plato has provided

distinction of the basic classes

of his city-state into following

three groups, based on the

aspect of human motivation: (1)

the rulers or men of wisdom; (2)

the army men or soldiers and (3)

the producers or artisans.

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# Plato's Idea of Communism and its Critique

Iqra Riaz Ud D

**P**lato argued that most of the people in the city-state are motivated by the force of appetite and desire. This stratum of society constitutes most in the city-state. This class belongs to people of different artisans; physicians; shoemakers; farmers and musicians. Although the largest in a society, its role is limited to achieving economic goals and worldly pleasure. This class must acquire primary education till the age of 15 and then they should participate in their worldly chores related to economic means.

Plato's communism argued that this class is allowed to have private property: land, women and children. Moreover, he categorized people into a sense of courage and spiritedness. Plato maintained that these kinds of people are fit to be part of military organizations. He calls them 'Soldier-Guardians'

who protect the city-state from foreign interventions and make best efforts to maintain peace. Plato's communism stressed that such people should not be given property rights. Property is desire and desire can destroy the peace of the human mind and soul. Resultantly, it would destroy the equilibrium of a city-state that rests on justice. Soldier-guardians are to get 15 years of education in music, astronomy and mathematics, then the chosen one would reach the pinnacle of the rulership. Furthermore, the class that is required to completely abstain from property rights is the ruler class. The ultimate goal of this class is to acquire knowledge and wisdom. These are the people, according to Plato, who are the most deserving ones to rule the city-state with justice. To Plato, justice is a product of class division and specialization of function.

Plato has advocated the implementation



of his communist principles on the ruling class; he argued that the values of justice can only prevail if the philosophers would be free of maintenance of property and family. The urge for the property could destroy the delicate balance of provision of justice in a society, as desire is the foundation of evil practices. For the preservation of private property and family, a philosopher-king would go beyond his principles and virtues. The soldiers have enjoined to share their property and family. However, in the producer class, the right of property has been permitted.

Moreover, Plato negated the concept of excessive individualism, although it has been emphasized in modern political thought. The prime concern of the communist thought in the Republic was to abolish the system of the family completely; Plato abhorred the concept of marriage. Marriages were not allowed in the upper classes of the city-state. Breeding was to be regulated for the benefits and welfare of the society; the state was held responsible for the upbringing of the children. Plato has relieved the women from playing the role of mother; he perceived that women of upper classes of ideal city-state must join state services to play an equal role as men. No individual parent-child relationship was to be recognized. For parents would be parents of all and children, children of all. The state would maintain an optimum size of population. Similarly, men and women have to produce the best of offspring in their prime age. Plato stressed the quality of population rather than quantity. He argued that contraceptive measures would be used to maintain the quality of offspring: abortion and infanticide. Plato sought eugenic ends through state control of breeding. Plato's communism has political and moral ends rather than being based on economic ones. The modern



philosophy of communism is based on the equal division of economic resources. The communism of Plato has implemented on the upper strata of society rather than being applicable on the society as a whole. The idea of Plato was to abolish the right of property and family only for the upper classes because it could lead to disharmony in the political realm in the context of favouritism, influences and corrupt practices. The idea of Communism in the city-state given by Plato is highly idealistic; the idea of absolute abolition of property and family would make the rule of philosopher-king absolute. That absolute rule would require absolute obedience. The true wisdom, as perceived by Plato, could be attained but what is the guarantee that it would not become the permanent trait of philosopher-king? Because the urge and desire to hold and possess is something innate; it could not be erased from human psychology. Plato has denounced the institution of marriage in any form; he has given the concept of shared property especially among the soldier-guardians which reduced the value of women to a mere commodity.

Though Plato has propagated about

the emancipation of women in terms of a political and military career, for the producer class, the women have been portrayed as property. He argued that women and men have quite little differentiations physically. Therefore, women should be permitted to perform tasks best suited to their abilities in order to be useful citizens of the city-state. Furthermore, in his teachings, he has negated a characteristic of womanhood. He has freed the woman from the responsibility of nurturing children, which is quite opposite of nature. The ideas of Plato are undoubtedly striking and persuasive but they belong to the idealistic world. Ideas that are more theoretical than having any practical implementation in a realistic world. ❏

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**The theory of Communism  
may be summed up  
in one sentence: Abolish  
all private property.**

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# JUDICIARY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**An efficient justice system can boost business growth**



Zafrullah Saroya

**IT**

is often said that an effective judiciary plays a critical role in ensuring economic development of a country. Well-functioning judicial systems play a crucial role in determining economic performance, notably by guaranteeing the security of property rights and the enforcement of contracts and these, in turn,

encourage savings and investment while promoting the establishment of economic relationships, bringing positive impacts on competition, innovation, the development of financial markets and growth

A well-functioning judicial system is indispensable to business activities and to society as a whole. Judicial efficiency measured by trial length, one of the essential factors in the effectiveness of the justice system, ensures contract enforcement, which is the basis of market transactions. In an effective justice system, decisions are made within a reasonable time frame, which contributes to a country's economic growth. But, in Pakistan, superior judiciary is faced with gigantic challenges, the pendency of cases being the most prominent of them. According to a recent report by Judicial Commission of Pakistan, there are around



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**Over the years, economic and policy experts have identified many factors preventing**

**Pakistan's economy from taking off. The quest to become an Asian Tiger has been thwarted by the usual suspects: corruption, bad governance, inconsistent policies, lack of exports and the FBR's lacklustre performance in broadening the tax base. Yet, there is more to this conundrum than meets the eye. One of the leading causes of Pakistan's poor economic indicators must be attributed to an underperforming judicial system, where expeditious dispute resolution remains elusive, with parties stuck in judicial proceedings for years with no end in sight.**

2.2 million cases currently pending with the country's courts – as of 31st August 2021, the total number of cases pending with the Supreme Court of Pakistan was 53,686, while 146 cases were pending with Federal Shariat Court and 350,495 with provincial high courts while the cases pending with district judiciary in all the provinces and Islamabad were 1,773,171 in number.

Mr Justice Saqib Nisar, former chief justice of Pakistan, said in one of his judgments in 2015: 'a judiciary which ... is tardy ... and has no urge ... and ability to decide the cases/disputes before it expeditiously ... is a danger to the state and the society. His thoughts resonate with a famous legal maxim: "Justice delayed is justice denied" which means that if legal redress or equitable relief to an injured party is available, but is not delivered in time, it is the same

as providing no remedy at all. As the late Martin Luther King, Jr. rightly said, "Law and order exist for the purpose of establishing justice, and when they fail this purpose, they become the dangerously structured dams that block the flow of social progress."

In one of the World Bank's World Development Reports published several years ago, the importance of well-functioning courts to strengthen economies and their investment climates was highly acknowledged by the bank's researchers.

For economic development, foreign direct investment is necessary as it mobilises a country's economy by bringing in technology, expanding the share of value-added exports, and creating employment opportunities. However, net FDI inflows to Pakistan averaged about \$2.3 billion in the last four years. This lack of FDI inflows can be attributed to our inefficient judicial system. The World Bank's Doing Business

report (2019) ranked Pakistan 156 out of 190 economies on the 'enforcing contracts' indicator, based on the cost and quality of judicial processes and time. The report noted that as of 2019, the resolution of a commercial dispute in Pakistan took 1,072 days on average, compared to 164 days in Singapore, 216 in New Zealand, and 437 days in the UK. The 'enforcing contracts' indicator is also relevant as the process of investment usually involves the signing and execution of contracts. Contracts not only state the obligations binding on both parties, but also govern what happens in the event of default. In such complex transactions, disputes are inevitable. However, if

foreign investors know beforehand that it takes years for disputes to be resolved, they would avoid investing in that jurisdiction altogether.

In commercial, corporate and financial cases,

enforcing contracts and settling disputes are critical parts of smooth business operations and sustained economic growth. Whilst it is almost impossible to avoid dispute in commercial ventures, an investor is concerned about the mechanism in place for resolving any disputes that may arise in the course of his business. The popular phrase "time is money" cannot be over-emphasised. No investor is willing to tie down money, capital or investment for an unascertainable period of time due to commercial disputes.

The fear is usually that the investment and/or capital would have lost its value at the time the dispute is eventually resolved. Thus, investors would be averse to investing funds in any country where dispute resolution is not reliable, effective and/or efficient. Economies with efficient judiciary — in which courts can effectively and timely enforce contractual obligations of business

entities — have better developed credit markets as well as people's trust, and have domestic and international financiers for business as well. Timely judicial verdicts can assist rapid growth of small firms and improve the business climate, foster innovation for small businesses, attract foreign direct investments, and secure strong tax revenue collection that ensures economic and business growth.

To ensure an efficient trial system, the time schedule for every event of a court proceeding — such as hearing, framing charges, recording depositions of witnesses, arguments and delivering judgment — needs to be carefully tracked. The time limit for adjournment of each event should be defined. The number of times a time petition may be granted should be articulated

Justice delayed is justice denied.

William E. Gladstone

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clearly.

The difference in the income levels of rich and poor countries stems from the difference in their institutions, i.e. laws, rules and processes. The former possess laws, rules and processes that not only allow economic activity but also let it proceed at a fast pace and low cost. On the

Pakistan, they are declining as well. Bad laws and cumbersome procedures keep productivity and investment low in Pakistan. These constraining laws and rules are developed by the government. Lengthy and obsolete processes are followed mostly by public entities. To follow a high growth trajectory then, the country will have to be

### The Singaporean Example

There is no denying the fact that the countries which aspire to have robust economic growth must ensure that their judicial system is effective. Singapore is a pertinent example to learn some lessons in this regard.

Lee Kuan Yew, the first prime minister of Singapore, demonstrated an appreciable level of understanding of the role an effective judiciary plays in boosting economic growth. He took steps to immediately reform the judiciary by appointing a visionary Chief Judge. The reforms implemented by the Chief Judge, *Inter alia*, included:

#### a. Addressing the shortage of judges and the low levels of judicial productivity

Under this plan, the Supreme Court bench was enlarged by the appointment of new judges and Judicial Commissioners who exercise the powers of High Court judges but are appointed for fixed terms. Under the Judicial Commissioner scheme, senior lawyers from the Bar, Legal Service or academia may serve in a judicial capacity and return to their previous careers thereafter, allowing the judiciary to draw on the experience and knowledge of eminent members of the profession to alleviate any temporary surges in case-loads while ensuring that the quality of justice is not compromised.

#### b. Automatic discontinuance of dormant cases

Valuable judicial resources and time would not be expended on litigants who chose to conduct cases in a dilatory fashion.

#### c. Case management

This was introduced as an integral part of the court process, with a shift in responsibility towards the judiciary in dictating the pace of litigation. Extensive use was made of pre-trial conferences (PTCs), convened by the court at regular intervals, for directions to be issued to the parties on timelines and to monitor compliance. PTCs also served the additional function of providing a forum for parties to identify crucial disputed issues and to delineate the scope of evidence to be adduced, thus facilitating the expeditious conduct of the subsequent trial.

#### d. Use of information technology

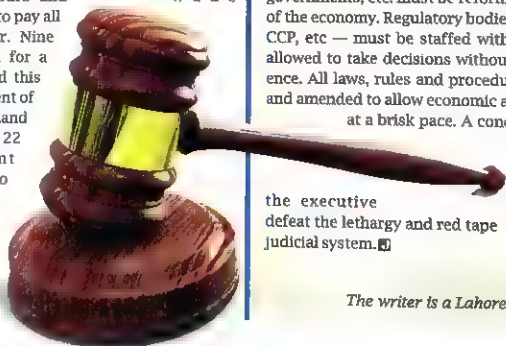
The introduction of information technology to the Court helped lawyers file their processes at their offices and 'on the go'. In his book, *From Third World to First World*, Lee Kuan Yew stated that by 1999, the reputation of Singaporean Courts brought judges from developing as well as developed worlds to study Singapore's judicial reorganization. The World Bank recommended Singapore's High Court and subordinate Court levels for other countries to learn from. Also, world rating agencies gave Singapore high marks for its effective and laudable judicial system. For example, the Hong Kong-based Political and Economic Risk Consultancy rated Singapore's judicial system as the best in Asia. These reforms carried out by the Chief Judge immensely contributed to boosting the economy by attracting massive foreign direct investment. The Singaporean economy has been performing strongly for over a decade and was ranked as the world's most competitive by the World Economic Forum in 2019.

other hand, the laws, rules and processes followed by the latter countries thwart economic activity. Some local examples prove the point. Forty-five steps are needed to lay an optic fibre for internet connectivity. Firms on average spend 577 hours and through 47 procedures to pay all the taxes for the year. Nine procedures are needed for a construction permit and this can cost up to nine percent of the construction value. Land developers must obtain 22 NOCs from different agencies in order to proceed. Productivity and investment, the two key drivers of economic growth, are not only low in

transformed into a well-functioning state — starting from 'which' organ of the state does 'what', and concluding with 'how' this must change. The entire public service including the civil service, judiciary, regulatory bodies, and local governments, etc. must be reformed to serve as 'enablers' of the economy. Regulatory bodies — Nepra, Ogra, Pemra, CCP, etc — must be staffed with professionals who are allowed to take decisions without bureaucratic interference. All laws, rules and procedures should be reviewed and amended to allow economic activity to take place and at a brisk pace. A concerted effort is required by all stakeholders including lawyers, judges, bar councils, and legislature to that plague Pakistan's judicial system. □

the executive defeat the lethargy and red tape judicial system. □

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# CLIMATE CHANGE

## and Global Droughts

### Should Capitalism be blamed?

Warmer temperatures associated with climate change have increased aridity and intensified the severity of droughts in many parts of the world, particularly in areas already suffering from water scarcity. Drought — a year with a below-average water supply — is a natural part of the climate cycle, but as Earth's atmosphere continues to warm due to climate change, droughts are becoming more frequent, severe and pervasive. According to a recent report "2021 State of Climate Services," released by World Meteorological Organization, "[W]ater-related hazards have increased in frequency for the past 20 years. Since 2000, flood-related disasters have increased by 134%, compared with the two previous decades. Most of the flood-related deaths and economic losses were recorded in Asia, where end-to-end warning systems for riverine floods require strengthening in many countries. The number and duration of droughts also increased by 29%. Most drought-related deaths occurred in Africa, indicating a need to continue strengthening end-to-end warning systems for drought.

Ghufran Wakeel



the face of the pandemic, the environmental crisis has been somewhat overshadowed. Its impact, however, rages on. We are now reaping the consequences of climate change with extreme weather conditions becoming increasingly common. This year, in particular, ominous droughts have impacted regions all over the world.

US state of California, Brazil and Taiwan have all seen record-breaking droughts. Entire regions including Europe, Africa and the Middle East have also seen dire water shortages. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), an estimated 55 million people across the globe are now affected by droughts every year. The situation is posing a serious hazard to livestock and crops in nearly every part of the world. It threatens people's livelihoods, increases the risk of diseases and is fuelling massive population displacement. By 2030, as many as 700 million people will be at risk of displacement as a result of drought. The situation is only getting worse. Droughts are expected to last longer and become more severe as the planet continues to warm due to greenhouse gas emissions, principally from fossil fuels. The Environmental Defence Fund (EDF) even speaks of a trend towards megadrought periods, which can last two decades and even longer.

#### Capitalism is to blame

As rivers, lakes and reservoirs dry up, data from NASA has revealed that

13 of the world's 37 most important groundwater basins are being depleted far faster than they can be recharged. Agriculture accounts for about 70% of global freshwater usage, with industry claiming another 20%, accounting for 90% in total. Such figures show clearly why ethical choices to cut personal water consumption by individuals cannot scratch the surface of the problem.

There is much that is completely irrational about agriculture under capitalism. Let us take the case of California. This US state is so dry – receiving only about 8 cm of rain a year – that it in fact qualifies as a literal desert. And yet this region produces about 90 percent of winter vegetables in the US. Acres upon acres of land in California are dedicated to producing alfalfa and almonds – two of the most water-intensive crops that exist. Farmers are flooding their rice fields with an obscene amount of water that evaporates almost as quickly as it is applied. California produces the second-largest rice crop in the US. But now, due to the drought, farmers will grow about 100,000 fewer acres of rice, down 20% from the average 500,000 acres grown annually in the state.

These are cash crops, which are farmed because agribusiness that owns the land can get a good yield and excellent prices. But it is residents in cities nearby that are left to deal with the repercussions of a severe water shortage. Rationally speaking, nothing about this situation makes any sense. From a water-management point of view, these crops only contribute to further draining California's limited water basin, paving the way for its complete collapse.

This is a direct consequence of the private ownership of land under capitalism. For the time being, it makes perfect sense for agribusiness to flood its fields. If the business that owns a field were to moderate its water usage by switching crops, others in the state would outcompete them by continuing to grow the most lucrative crops. The anarchic competition of the market means that the faster the water table is drained, the more greedily agribusinesses continue to suck it dry, hoping to grab as much of this precious and limited resource as they can before it is entirely depleted.

This is only one example. Such practices are widespread all over the globe; from flooding agricultural lands with water (which is the least efficient way to irrigate a field), to growing crops in unsuitable climates because it is profitable in the short-term to do so, to cutting down the Amazon and other rainforests for their short-term fertility.

The point is, the capitalists exploit the planet and its

resources for immediate gain. Their motive is profit. As Engels already wrote back in 1876:

"As individual capitalists are engaged in production and exchange for the sake of the immediate profit, only the nearest, most immediate results must first be taken into account. ... The same thing applies to the natural effects of the same actions. What cared the Spanish planters in Cuba, who burned down forests on the slopes of the mountains and obtained from the ashes sufficient fertiliser for one generation of very highly profitable coffee trees – what cared they that the heavy tropical rainfall afterwards washed away the unprotected upper stratum of the soil, leaving behind only bare rock! In relation to nature, as to society, the present mode of production is predominantly concerned only about the immediate, the most tangible result; and then surprise is expressed that the more remote effects of actions



directed to this end turn out to be quite different ..."

#### Protests

For small farmers across the globe, increasing occurrences of drought caused by climate change have rendered their old way of life completely untenable. The crisis has already led to radical protests in various regions. In Iran for example, farmers have taken to the streets once more this year against the lack of permanent access to water.

These people are rightfully furious and incredibly desperate. Farmers have had to sell literally everything they had in order to survive. Studies have shown that there is a clear correlation between drought and suicide rates amongst farmers.

Mass outbursts of anger in Iran over water shortages are not isolated. The Tigris-Euphrates basin is being drained faster than any other basin in the world with the exception of northern India. In Syria, a devastating drought in 2006



forced farmers to migrate to the cities to survive, swelling the ranks of the unemployed and feeding the reservoir of anger that exploded in 2011.

In the same region, the depletion of water reserves is stoking national tensions. Since 1975, Turkey's construction of hydroelectric dams has cut water flow to Iraq by 90 percent and to Syria by 40 percent. Both have accused Turkey of hoarding water.

The lack of access to water was precisely one of the triggers of the protest movement in Iraq in 2019. The masses were forced to endure summers, in which temperature reached 50 degrees, without water or electricity. And yet the richest neighbourhoods were able to enjoy air-conditioning and freshwater without interruption. Lenin once said that "capitalism is horror without end". Here is a case in point. The deteriorating water crisis will be a fundamental factor in the development of revolutionary consciousness for many workers

nation for itself. Rather than a global, planned response that prioritises human need, each capitalist nation will protect its own access to water at the expense of its neighbours.

#### **An alternative exists**

Despite the environmental destruction that we have experienced, we must highlight that we have all the means necessary to resolve these problems.

First and foremost, what is required is a rational plan of production. Rather than each capitalist producing such-and-such a crop because it is most profitable to do so on their given farm, specific crops ought to be grown, based on soil type, moisture content, temperature, rain, etc. Rather than producing water-intensive crops in semi-arid environments, other more appropriate crops ought to be grown there, and the more water-intensive crops grown where freshwater is more abundant. As long as individual capitalists and national gangs of capitalists are



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and farmers.

#### **Refugee crisis**

Both the environmental crisis itself, and consequent water wars, are likely to exacerbate the horror of the refugee crisis. According to the UN's estimates, by 2050, around 200 million people could be displaced by climate change. Extreme weather events, desertification and rising sea level – which as well as flooding coastal areas will cause the further salination of freshwater supplies if planning measures are not implemented in time – will all contribute to driving people from their homes.

Meanwhile, the Dutch government-funded WPS (Water, Peace and Security) has predicted that there is, on average, an 86% chance of violent water-related conflict in Iraq, Iran, Mali, Nigeria, India and Pakistan this year alone.

Under capitalism, it's every man for himself and every

in competition, such a plan is impossible. In other words, we need a rational, global agricultural plan run by and for working people. Imagine what we could do on a world-wide scale.

Furthermore, technology that is already in existence must be placed at the disposal of society to make water usage as efficient as possible. The highly developed Dutch agriculture sector is already putting such technology to use.

Direct crop monitoring and geo-information are used by Dutch agribusiness to give better insights into water resources, measuring soil quality and moisture levels, etc. in order to improve agricultural methods and the efficiency of irrigation. One innovation that has made a sharp impact on production is known as 'protected cultivation' or the 'closed' greenhouse method, which improves the efficiency of water usage immensely. Of

course, this requires a lot more energy. However, under socialism, we would find sustainable means to power these greenhouses using renewable energy.

This 'closed' greenhouse method reduces water losses to air significantly, which on average accounts for about 70% of the water lost through irrigation. Through hydroponic recycling, water emission to soil can also be reduced. Dutch agriculture has achieved a water efficiency that is unmatched anywhere in the world. Just to give an example, in a Spanish tomato field, a farmer would produce about 20 kgs of tomatoes per cubic metre of water. In the Dutch 'closed' greenhouse, the same amount of water can produce 250 kgs of tomatoes.

Yet the Dutch capitalist class hoards this technology for itself, having no interest in sharing such knowledge and techniques with its competitors on the world market. They are interested in water efficiency because it is profitable. Their motivation is not to produce food to feed people, but to compete on the world market.

that prevents the capitalists from urgently switching to green energy. It's simply not profitable to do so.

Protection of many precious water sources would require massive economic planning. There is no immediate profit in an individual capitalist investing in desalinating groundwater or creating the infrastructure for a national, and indeed international, management system for water usage for human consumption, agriculture and industry. There is no loss to profit in just dumping waste pollutants into rivers and oceans. Indeed, it is often the cheapest thing to do for an individual capitalist. The cost for humanity, however, is immeasurable.

None of this can be solved under capitalism. That's the point. We must therefore be possessed by a sense of urgency to overthrow capitalism at the first opportunity. When capitalism has been done away with, we can finally begin to address the manifold environmental catastrophes that capitalism has bestowed us as its legacy. Workers can introduce a rational system, where we share



Such methods are, therefore, completely inaccessible to small farmers in Iran, India and anywhere else in the world. This is not 'their fault', but rather the fault of the capitalists. As their old methods of irrigation are made unviable by dwindling water supplies, rather than assisting farmers to upgrade their methods, the capitalist state simply elbows them aside, reserving the limited water that is left for the giant monopolies. Today, the rich nations like the Netherlands jealously guard important innovations in water usage. Even if they were to share them, the big banks wouldn't lend sufficient capital to small farmers to make use of them. Under a socialist plan of production, on the contrary, it would be in the interest of society as a whole not only to share these ground-breaking technologies with the whole of humanity, but also to assist small farmers in collectively rationalising agriculture, laying all the necessary capital and expertise at the disposal of small farming communities.

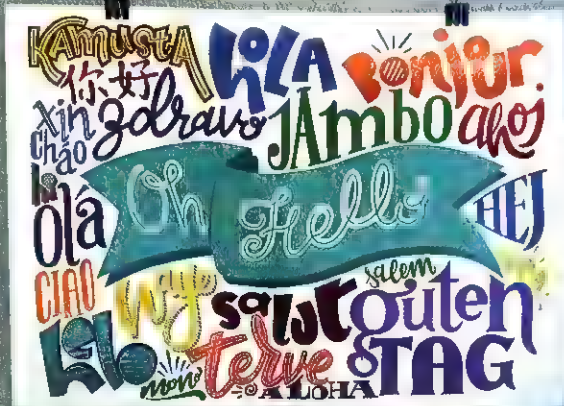
Agriculture suffers from the same fundamental problem

the immense wealth of knowledge and technology we have to manage water sustainably. No one needs to go hungry, become a refugee, or suffer as a consequence of climate change. We have the means to change this situation, but we cannot change something we cannot control, and we cannot control what we do not own.

Nationalisation of giant agribusiness, mining and other water-intensive industries, and the banks under a democratic plan of production is the primary condition for solving the water crisis.

Capitalism has severely damaged the planet. But once the working class has control, we can make the switch to green energy to reverse the long-term effects of climate change, and we can begin immediately tackling issues such as droughts. Every day, this rotten system lives on, the crisis becomes more severe, and ultimately lives are lost. We urgently need a revolution. ■

*The writer is an advocate Lahore High Court*



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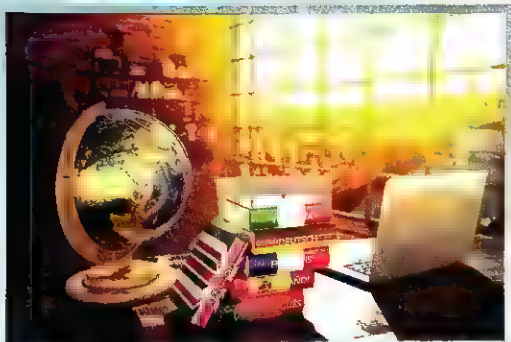
# Language Death

## Why Languages Die and How to Preserve Them?

Laiba Muhammed Aamir

Humans have an incredible ability to take different sounds and combine them into words to express their feelings, thoughts and ideas. These words are called a language. With the passage of time, languages change because humans are able to adapt to their changing social circumstances. New words are introduced and newer expressions replace the older ones. Similarly, new words are borrowed from foreign languages that at last become a part of the grammatical structure of a language over a period of decades. Another phenomenon is language shift – when people shift to a dominant language by giving up their mother tongue. There is nothing unusual about language shift or language death. However, as compared to the past, language shift and language death is occurring in today's world at a much faster pace. Judged by the standards of the past, what is happening today is out of the ordinary. Experts say that as many as half of the world's languages will vanish within the next century. If the speed remains the same, some language in the world will finally fall silent – resembling the mass extinction of some biological species. Biological diversity is under threat and so is the language diversity around the world. Indigenous languages have increasingly been in danger of extinction because languages, like biological species, have lives, bodies and souls and they are eventually subjected to ecological changes as well. They are born and they die in the same way the living creatures do.

Language death means when a language is not spoken by anyone anymore, as David Crystal, a British linguist, has suggested. One day, the last speaker is there and so is the language; the next day, he is dead along with the language. It is fair to say that language death occurs as a consequence of human death. However, there are many other ways in which a language dies. Loss and death of a language happens when people adopt different behaviours and they do not transmit their language to the next generations. Another important point in defining language death is that when there is no appreciation for linguistic diversity, it consequently kills native languages and cultures by labelling them as antediluvian. As a result, the languages are replaced by powerful languages and cultures as prerequisites to modernization and progress. It is really hard to give a precise number of endangered and dying languages and there are various reasons for this



uncertainty. Firstly, not all languages of the world have been discovered yet. Secondly, due to a lack of systematic information-gathering techniques in language surveys, figures are largely based on guesswork. Thirdly, new languages are emerging around the globe every now and then which results in the lack of hard facts. For this reason, the number of discovered, living and dying languages fluctuates. Currently, Ethnologue (2021) claims that there are 7,097 living languages in the world and 3,018 languages are endangered. However, according to the most recent report of UNESCO Atlas of the World Languages in Danger (2021), there are more than 8,000 languages in use around the world. The same report says that after every two weeks, a language somewhere in the world dies while 50-90 percent of the world's living languages will possibly vanish by the next century. There are various reasons that contribute to language

death. Some languages die in an instant when its speakers die because of war, genocide, pandemic, etc. In other cases, language dies not because its speakers are dead but because they stop using it to avoid suppression. Some languages disappear gradually as the speakers of such languages give up their language for a language of higher prestige and power. These speakers remain bilingual for quite some time but every new generation goes for the prestigious language, leading eventually to the death of their mother tongue. In most cases, the elite in such countries acquire the prestigious languages through schooling and use this knowledge to maintain their positions of power over the majority of citizens who do not know that language. When more and more people in younger generation acquire international languages at the expense of their native tongue, rather than simply using it as second language, they kill their mother tongue,

knowingly or unknowingly. Languages also die when they are knowingly and intentionally crushed, especially in younger generations in educational institutions. As a result, children start feeling ashamed of their mother tongue and they eventually stop using it. Similar situation is happening in Pakistani schools where students are literally beaten up and fined for speaking their native language. They begin to consider their native languages inferior and lacking importance. Psychologically, these children fear passing their native tongue to the next generations because they do not want them to suffer in the similar way. In addition, whenever a geographical area is occupied by colonial masters, in most cases, the language of the newcomers gradually replaces the native language because the

natives adopt the language of the masters for various political and social reasons. Such adaptation takes place because of financial benefits as well; for example, seeking job opportunities while associating with masters through master's language.

In Pakistan, it was decided in 1973 (Article 251) that within fifteen years of the promulgation of this constitution, Urdu will be made the official language of Pakistan and English will be used only until arrangements are made for its replacement by Urdu. Even today, there are no positive signs of the implementation of Article 251. English is still the official language of the country. In fact, this has led to a common belief that English, instead of Urdu, is national as well as official language of the country. This situation is alarming because it predicts a terrible fate of the national and native languages.

Languages are dying at an unprecedented pace now

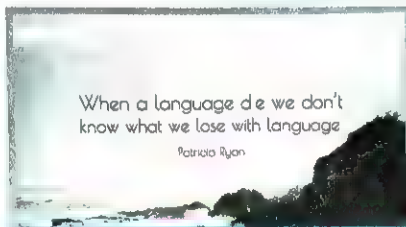


particularly. In today's globalized world, languages are changing rapidly because of the internet, technology and the dominance of few languages. David Crystal believes that technology has always changed language in whatever shape it has come. When printing and telephone came, they changed language. Similarly, when broadcasting came, it changed language too. When internet came, it gave birth to worldwide web, chat rooms, YouTube, WhatsApp, Facebook, Twitter, Email, direct mobile message, etc. These new opportunities for communication produce new kinds and styles of languages. Furthermore, people want to assimilate themselves into the popular culture. They are learning new words, phrases and acronyms which they incorporate into their language straight away. Also, English is the prestigious language in all the spheres of life. The number of people speaking English as second language is seemingly more than the number of people speaking it as native language. The issue of language death is important to be addressed on immediate basis. Quite simply, language gives identity. When a language dies, a part of person's identity dies simultaneously. In addition, people have an emotional experience and a sense of pride in speaking their mother tongue. Moreover, culture and history are reflected through clothing, food, rituals, beliefs and architecture, but it is the language through which

Most likely, a language won't die if its speakers value it, own it, and speak it with dignity. Children should be encouraged to speak in their native tongue by the surviving speakers of the particular language. Besides this, language-maintenance programs on national academic level can prove vital in increasing language proficiency in a particular community, especially in younger generation because the endurance of a language depends on youth. Such steps can keep a language alive. Also, minority languages, other than the majority languages, should be used in media and communication technology. If television, radio programs and newspapers are in native tongue, speakers will get more chances to hear and read their language and so they will somehow start speaking it as well.

To sum up, death of a language leads to the death of a part of human history. Language loss means loss of connection to the past and the amount of wisdom and knowledge accumulated through the years when the language was spoken. For this reason, many linguists and academics are taking measures to preserve endangered languages.

Rather than feeling ashamed of speaking in one's native tongue, it must be a moment of pride for doing so. As a matter of fact, the war between the dominant and minority language will continue as long as humans exist. Majority language



When a language d... we don't know what we lose with language

Patricia Ryan



culture and history of a community is passed and understood. A French proverb says that a man who knows two languages is worth two men. Linguistics varieties suggest that human mind is capable of arranging and categorizing different experiences differently. It suggests that people's perception of the world and their way of thinking is affected by the structure of the language they speak.

considers minority languages as a threat to its hegemony; however, finding a middle ground for their coexistence is the ultimate key to save further languages from dying and to celebrate linguistic diversity around the world. ■

*The writer is pursuing her MPhil in English Literature and Applied Linguistics from University of Peshawar.*

**H**ere is all you need to about this biggest ever leak of offshore data that exposes financial secrets of rich and powerful:

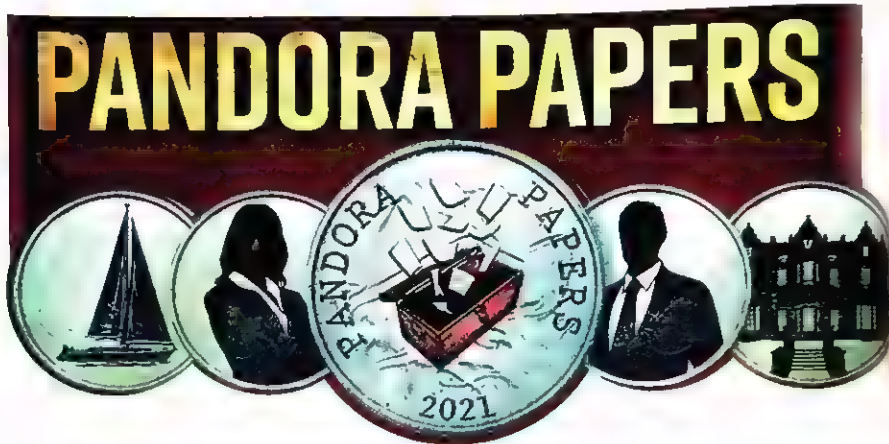
**What are Pandora Papers?**

The Pandora papers are the largest trove of leaked data exposing tax haven secrecy in history. They provide a rare window into the hidden world of offshore finance, casting light on the financial secrets of some of the world's richest people. The files were leaked to the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ), which shared access with

identifying the source of the leaked documents. In order to facilitate a global investigation, the ICIJ gave remote access to the documents to journalists in 117 countries, including reporters at the Washington Post, Le Monde, El País, Süddeutsche Zeitung, PBS Frontline and the Australian Broadcasting Corporation. In the UK, the investigation has been led by the Guardian and BBC Panorama. In Pakistan, two journalists of The News - Umar Cheema and Fakbar Durrani - were part of this team.

**What do they show?**

The files reveal how wealthy individuals can shield their

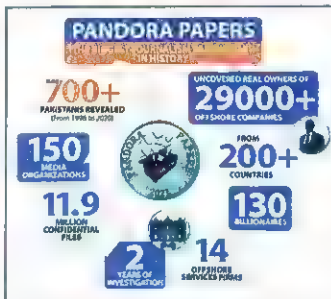


On October 03 the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ) – an ensemble of 600 journalists from 150 media outlets in 117 countries – published a massive global investigation that has exposed the ties between world leaders to the hidden world of offshore wealth collectively worth trillions of dollars. Dubbed the Pandora Papers, the landmark probe dug into more than 11.9 million documents leaked from 14 offshore financial services firms. The ICIJ found that 35 heads of state and government and more than 300 politicians have set up offshore structures and trusts in tax havens from the British Virgin Islands, Seychelles, to Hong Kong and Belize.

the Guardian, BBC and other media outlets around the world. In total, the trove consists of 11.9m files leaked from a total of 14 offshore service providers, totalling 2.94 terabytes of information. That makes it larger in volume than both the Panama Papers (2016) and Paradise Papers (2017), two previous offshore leaks.

**Where did the Pandora documents come from?**

The ICIJ, a Washington DC-based journalism nonprofit, is not



income and their assets from taxation and scrutiny by hiding them in offshore jurisdictions, more commonly known as "tax havens".

Not everyone named in the Pandora Papers is accused of wrongdoing. But using companies or trusts incorporated in tax havens such as the British Virgin Islands, Panama or Switzerland the rich can ensure their assets remain hidden, and sometimes that enables tax avoidance.

# PANDORA PAPERS

<b>Shaukat Tareen</b> PTI Govt's finance Minister Tareen Inc, Hamra Inc, Seefex Inc and Moores Inc BVI	<b>Ali Dar</b> Son, Former Finance Minister Ishaq Dar, Baraq Holdings Ltd, Dar Ali Hanjani Ltd, Pvt.
<b>Chaudhry</b> <b>Munir Elahi</b> Federal Minister, Water Resources Green Mills Trust and Winchep Fund	<b>Naved Maghish</b> <b>Sheikh</b> Proprietor of Imperial Sugar Mills N/A
<b>Faisal Vawda</b> Former Minister Water Resources, Operating Worldwide Ltd, BVI	<b>Bashir Dawood</b> Trader N/A
<b>Arif Usmani</b> President National Bank of Pakistan Sana Partners Inc, BVI	<b>Ahsan Latif</b> (General Khalid Maghool's son in law) Dylan Capital BVI
<b>Air Jananagar</b> <b>Siddiqui</b> Ambassador-in-Charge for Pakistan investment N/A	<b>Asif Hafeez</b> Merchant N/A
<b>Adnan Afridi</b> Managing Director of National Investment Trust Veritas Advisory Services Ltd, BVI	<b>Lt. Gen. (R)</b> <b>Shafatullah</b> <b>Shah</b> Former military secretary of Gen. Pervez Musharraf Talha Limited BVI
<b>Khusro Bakhtiar</b> Federal Minister for Industries and Production N/A	<b>Major General</b> <b>Federal (retd.) Nusrat</b> <b>Naeem</b> Former ISI DG (Counter Terrorism) registered a company in 2009 shortly after his retirement
<b>Abdullah Masood</b> (Son, Waqar Masood Khan, Former Sp. Asst to PM on Finance and Revenue) Co-owner Linkquest Ltd, BVI	<b>Hassan Muzaffar</b> General (retd.) Afzal Muzaffar's son, Greek Growth Capital Holding Ltd, BVI
<b>Arif Nagvi</b> Founder of Abraj Group N/A	<b>Mrs. Zahra Tanvir</b> Wife of Lt. Gen. (R) Yamir Tabir (former production secretary) Enerplastics Ltd, BVI
<b>Aleem Khan</b> Senior Minister in Punjab Alkhan Investment Company Limited (BVI)	<b>Shahnaz Sajjad</b> Sister of Lt. Gen. (R) Ali Quli Khan 2 London apartments, purchased in 1997 & 2011 in Knights- bridge through an offshore company. Set up a trust in 2003 in tax haven Guernsey, English Channel.
<b>Arif Shafi</b> Businessman Mesam Investment Overseas Limited (BVI)	<b>Umar and Ahad</b> <b>Khattak</b> (Former Air Marshal Abbas Khattak's sons) In 2010 registered a BVI company to invest.
<b>Shargeel Memon</b> Former info. Minister Sana 3 BVI share companies in BVI	
<b>Shoaib Sheikh</b> Owner Ascent Pakistan CFC-Mark Group Ltd	

## Who are the Pakistanis named in the leaks?

Top cabinet members, ministers, media moguls, relatives of army officers and powerful businessmen — individuals spanning the entire Pakistani elite — have been named in the 'Pandora Papers'. The exposé revealed that key members of Prime Minister Imran Khan's inner circle, including cabinet members, their families, political allies and major financial backers, have secretly owned an array of offshore companies and trusts holding millions of dollars of hidden wealth.

## What is an offshore service provider?

The 14 offshore service providers in the leak provide corporate services to individuals or companies seeking to do business offshore. Their clients are typically seeking to discreetly set up companies or trusts in lightly regulated tax havens such as the British Virgin Islands (BVI), Panama, the Cook Islands and the US state of South Dakota. Companies registered offshore can be used to hold assets such as property, aircraft, yachts and investments in stocks and shares. By holding those assets in an offshore company, it is

possible to hide from the rest of the world the identity of the person they actually belong to, or the "beneficial owner".

## Why do people move money offshore?

Usually for reasons of tax, secrecy or regulation. Offshore jurisdictions tend to have no income or corporation taxes, which makes them potentially attractive to wealthy individuals and companies who don't want to pay taxes in their home countries. Although morally questionable, this kind of tax avoidance can be legal. Offshore jurisdictions also tend to be highly

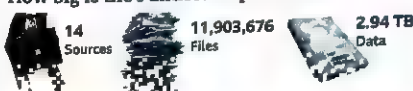
secretive and publish little or no information about the companies or trusts incorporated there. This can make them useful to criminals, such as tax-evaders or money-launderers, who need to hide money from tax or law-enforcement authorities. It is also true that people in corrupt or unstable countries may use offshore providers to put their assets beyond the reach of repressive governments or criminal adversaries who may try to seize them, or to seek to circumvent hard currency restrictions. Others may go offshore for reasons of inheritance or estate planning.

## Has everyone named in the Pandora papers done something wrong?

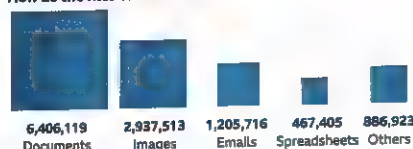
No. Moving money offshore is not in or of itself illegal, and there are legitimate reasons why some people do it. Not everyone named in the Pandora Papers is suspected of wrongdoing. Those who are may stand accused of a wide range of misbehaviour: from the morally questionable through to the potentially criminal. ☒

The writer is a member of staff.

## How big is the Pandora Papers leak?



## How do the files break down?



## How does Pandora compare with previous leaks?

	Year	Data	Files
Offshore Leaks	2013	260 GB	2.5 million
Panama Papers	2016	2.6 TB	11.5 million
Paradise Papers	2017	1.4 TB	13.4 million
Pandora Papers	2021	2.94 TB	11.9 million

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# DR ABDUL QADEER KHAN

(1936 - 2021)

## SOME MEN ARE GREATER THAN ANY TRIBUTE!



Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan was born in Bhopal, India, on April 1, 1936. He was just a young boy when he

immigrated, along with his family, to Pakistan in 1947 after partition of the Subcontinent. He did a science degree at Karachi University in 1960. Then, over the next decade, he pursued graduate studies abroad, first in West Germany and then in Delft, Netherlands, from where, in 1967, he received a 'master's degree in metallurgy. In 1972, he earned a doctorate in metallurgical engineering from the Catholic University of Leuven in Belgium. Meanwhile, in 1964, he married Hendrina Reterink, a British national who had been born to Dutch expatriate parents in South Africa and raised in what was then Northern Rhodesia (now Zambia) before moving to the Netherlands. In the spring of 1972, he was hired by Physical Dynamics Research Laboratory, a subcontractor of the Dutch partner of URENCO, a consortium of British, German and Dutch companies. It was established in 1971 to research and develop

uranium-enrichment through the use of ultracentrifuges, which are centrifuges that operate at extremely high speeds. Khan was granted a low-level security clearance, but, through



his right, he gained access to a full range of information on ultracentrifuge technology and visited the Dutch plant at Almelo many times. One of his jobs was to translate German documents

Hassan Bin Zubair

on advanced centrifuges into Dutch. Khan was heavily influenced by events back home, notably Pakistan's defeat in a brief war with India in 1971, the subsequent loss of East Pakistan through the creation of a newly-independent country, Bangladesh, and India's test of a nuclear device in May 1974.

On September 17, 1974, Khan wrote to Pakistan's then Prime Minister, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, offering his assistance in preparing an atomic bomb. In the letter, he offered the opinion that the uranium route to the bomb, using centrifuges for enrichment, was better than the plutonium path (already underway in Pakistan), which relied on nuclear reactors and reprocessing.

Bhutto met Khan in December 1974 and encouraged him to do everything he could to help Pakistan attain the bomb. On December 15, 1975, he left the Netherlands for Pakistan, accompanied by his wife and two daughters. Khan initially worked with the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC), but differences arose with its head, Munir Ahmad



Khan. In mid-1976, at Bhutto's direction, Khan founded the Engineering Research Laboratory, or ERL, to develop a uranium-enrichment capability (In May 1981 the laboratory was renamed the Khan Research Laboratory or KRL). Khan's base of operations was in Kahuta, 50 km (30 miles) southeast of Islamabad; there he developed prototype centrifuges based on German designs. His most crucial contribution to Pakistan's nuclear program was the procurement of a blueprint for uranium centrifuges, which transform uranium into weapons-grade fuel for nuclear fissile material.

In the early 1980s, Pakistan acquired from China the blueprints of a nuclear weapon that used a uranium-implosion design that the Chinese had successfully tested in 1966. It is generally believed that the Chinese tested a derivative design for the Pakistanis on May 26, 1990. His laboratory also developed Pakistan's Ghauri ballistic missile.

When India conducted nuclear tests in 1998, India's Deputy Prime Minister L.K. Advani claimed, "By testing, we have called Pakistan's bluff." Yet, Dr Khan with his dedicated team (whom he generously credits in his writings for their genius and dedication) improvised, developed and brought to Pakistan the proverbial Promethean Fire. Pakistan succeeded in developing a third route to producing fissionable material. The other two were developed by the United States (and adopted by successive nuclear-weapon states) at the Manhattan Project in the 1940s.

The whole nation was waiting for a robust response from Pakistan and finally, under his supervision, the nuclear tests were conducted in Chagai, Balochistan. Thus, Pakistan gave a befitting response to India. Following the tests, Pakistan became

the sole nuclear power in the Muslim world and the seventh country to possess nuclear weapons. Pakistan's nuclear weapons have kept Indian aggression in check and have provided us security against an aggressive much larger nuclear neighbour. Then, the things turned ugly when on



January 31, 2004, Khan was arrested for transferring nuclear technology to other countries. On February 4, he read a statement on national television taking full responsibility for his operations and absolving the

military and government of any involvement - a claim that many nuclear experts found difficult to believe. The next day, he was pardoned by Pakistan's president, Pervez Musharraf, but was held under house arrest until 2009. That episode was ugly, and unfair and deeply hurtful to Dr Khan and his family. We fell into a trap and mistreated a great hero and benefactor of the country.

Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan was among such rare men who are taller than any tribute. A clear acknowledgment of his achievement ironically comes from American officials and scholars. Worthy of citation is the wistful remark by American CIA Chief George Tenet (1997-2004), who wrote in his memoirs *At the Centre of the Storm*, "Now I was going to ask him (President Musharraf) to take on a man (Dr Khan) who almost single-handedly transformed Pakistan into a nuclear power and who was considered a hero by the nation."

Beyond science, Dr Khan had many dimensions to his personality - energetic, innovative and full of ideas, he was, above all, deeply humane and a man of faith and love for Islam and yet he maintained a healthy commitment to the common good. He felt most agitated by the sufferings of Muslims around the world. He would become emotional when talking about Muslims suffering atrocities in Bosnia or Kashmir or Palestine and the carnage visited upon them in Afghanistan, Syria, Iraq or other parts of the world. Faith and strong belief were simply a part of his persona. He believed that logic must have its limits. Quintessentially he was a humanist committed to justice, peace and the common good. ■

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# ECOLOGICAL THREAT REPORT

## Executive Summary

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**T**his is the second edition of the Ecological Threat Report (ETR), which analyses 178 independent states and territories. Produced by the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP), the report covers over 2,500 subnational administrative units in 90.9 percent of the world's population. It assesses threats to food, energy, water, rapid population growth, temperature anomalies, and natural disasters. These threats are then combined with national assessments of socioeconomic resilience to determine which countries have the most severe threats and lowest coping capabilities. These are the countries most likely to suffer from ecological threat-related conflict. The report looks at the future, with projections but is

A few days ago, the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP), a Sydney-based think tank dedicated to shifting the world's focus to peace as a positive, achievable and tangible measure of human well-being and progress, released its second Ecological Threat Report wherein it said that ecological threats will lead to widespread conflict and mass migration unless significant efforts are made to limit the damage. The report found that regions menaced by conflict and ecological damage — such as natural disasters, resource scarcity and temperature anomalies — fall into a sort of feedback loop, where each issue reinforces the other. The three regions found to be most at risk of societal collapse are the Sahel-Horn of Africa belt, which stretches from Mauritania to Somalia, the Southern African belt, from Angola to Madagascar, and the Middle East and Central Asian belt, which runs from Syria to Pakistan. And these countries, as well as being at risk of further conflict, are also likely to experience mass migration. More than 80 million people were forcibly displaced by conflict and violence in Sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East and North Africa in 2020. Following is the executive summary of the report:

2020

Many ecological threats exist independently of climate change. However, climate change will have an amplifying effect, causing further ecological degradation and pushing some countries through violent tipping points.

Countries with high population growth are amongst the most ecologically degraded. The combination of weak socioeconomic resilience, extreme ecological risk and rapid population growth can result in societal collapse. The report uses IEP's Positive Peace framework to identify countries without enough socioeconomic resilience to adapt to or cope with these future shocks. Positive Peace is a strong statistically significant relationship to peace, and this framework has proven successful in forecasting substantial falls in peace and predicting superior economic growth.

The main finding from the 2021 ETR is that a cyclic relationship exists between ecological degradation and conflict. It is a vicious cycle whereby degradation of resources leads to conflict, and the ensuing conflict leads to further resource degradation. Breaking the cycle requires improving ecological resource management and socioeconomic resilience. The resilience and adaptability of the socio-economic system, referred to as the societal system, will generally determine the outcome.

Based on current trends, future prospects are not encouraging. Both undernourishment and food insecurity have been steadily rising since 2015. This is the reversal of a long-established trend where undernourishment had been improving. The factors causing this are complex; however, high population growth, lack of potable water and increasing land degradation are clear contributors. Based on the current number of undernourished people and allowing for population growth, IEP projects the number of undernourished people to rise by 143 million people by 2050, to 1.1 billion. This is a 45 percent increase.

The 2021 ETR identifies three clusters of ecological hotspots, which are particularly susceptible to collapse:

- The Sahel-Horn of Africa belt, from Mauritania to Somalia;
- The Southern African belt, from Angola to Madagascar;
- The Middle East and Central Asian belt, from Syria to Pakistan.

The impact of ecological degradation on conflict is highlighted by the strong overlap between the countries with the highest levels of conflict, as measured by the Global Peace Index (GPI), and those with the worst ecological degradation. Eleven of the fifteen countries facing the worst ecological threats are currently in conflict, and another four are at a high risk of substantial falls in peace. Examples include Afghanistan, Yemen, Somalia, Niger, Burkina Faso and Pakistan. Given the significant link between ecological fragility and conflict, addressing water availability, food security and high population growth in

### The vicious cycle of increasing resource scarcity

Increased stress on resources can lead to deteriorations in peacefulness in a vicious cycle.



environment.

The 30 countries facing the highest level of ecological threat are home to 1.26 billion people. These nations combine low socioeconomic resilience with medium to extremely high catastrophic ecological threats.

The number of people displaced by conflict has been steadily rising. At the end of 2020, 34 million people had been forcibly displaced from their home nations. Of this total, 23.1 million people or 68 percent came from these 30

hotspot countries. Without a reversal of ecological degradation, these numbers are likely to increase.

More positively, the 2021 ETR identifies that 46 countries face low ecological threat levels, with 35 exposed to very low threats. Eighty-nine percent of these countries have high Positive Peace scores. These countries also have low population growth. In 2021, their combined population is 1.96 billion people, and by 2050, this figure will slightly increase to 2.18

### A Snapshot of Food Security in the World

Approximately 2.4 billion people globally face food insecurity, characterised by a lack of access to a sufficient quantity of food necessary for a healthy life. The number of food-insecure people is rising, increasing by more than 700 million people since 2014. Today, around 30 percent of the global population is food insecure, compared with 23 percent in 2014. Of the 2.4 billion people who are currently food insecure, around 930 million experience a severe form of food insecurity, defined as a person having to skip meals or go without food for an entire day. Severe food insecurity has adverse consequences on a person's physical and mental health. It also affects economic productivity. When large proportions of a country's population are severely and regularly food insecure, economic development is stifled.

The number of food-insecure people grew by over 720 million in the six years between 2014 and 2020, an increase of 44 percent. The year 2020 saw a large increase in the number of food-insecure people due to the reduction of economic activity that has occurred during the Covid-19 pandemic. The number of food-insecure people grew by 318 million in 2020.

The vast majority of this 2020 increase occurred in three regions: South Asia, sub-Saharan Africa and South America, where the numbers of food-insecure people rose by 128 million, 88 million and 40 million, respectively.

All regions except Europe saw their rates of food insecurity rise in 2020. In relative terms, the Russia and Eurasia region experienced the largest increase in food insecurity in 2020, although it was coming off a relatively low base. The number of food-insecure people in Russia and Eurasia increased by 41.8 percent, or 17 million people. Food insecurity in the Russia and Eurasia region is expected to increase slightly in the future.

In 2020, hunger increased most in countries affected by conflict, climate extremes or economic downturns.

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of adaptability. This includes better water management, more efficient agricultural systems, and the capability to import food when local production is insufficient. No country with a high level of peace has an extremely poor ETR score, underscoring the relationship between ecological fragility and conflict. On the other hand, eighty percent of the countries with the worst ETR scores are also among the world's least resilient. This indicates that these nations may not be able to mitigate the impacts of their rapidly changing

billion people. These countries are mainly located in Eastern and Western Europe, North America and South America. Food insecurity remains a serious challenge and has also been on the rise. Underlying the urgency of the situation, the Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) estimates that in 2020, a total of 2.4 billion people, or 30.4 percent of the global population, are food insecure. In 2020, the number of food-insecure people rose by 318 million people relative to the previous year. The vast majority of this increase occurred in three regions: South Asia, sub-Saharan Africa and South America, where the numbers of food-insecure people rose by 128 million, 86 million and 40 million, respectively.



Sub-Saharan Africa has the highest prevalence of food insecurity, with 66 percent of the population deemed food-insecure. Sub-Saharan Africa also has the lowest societal resilience of all regions. By 2050, sub-Saharan Africa's population is projected to be 2.1 billion, a 90 percent increase from today's levels. Such rapid population growth is unsustainable and could translate into hundreds of millions of additional food-insecure people over the next few decades. Eleven countries in the region are expected to double their population between now and 2050. The three countries with the largest projected increases in population are Niger, Angola and Somalia.

The Sahel is especially vulnerable. The region faces many converging and complex challenges such as civil unrest, weak institutions, corruption, high population growth and lack of adequate food and water. These issues have formed a vicious cycle whereby ecological degradation and population growth have increased the likelihood of conflict and facilitated the rise of insurgencies. There are gender differences in the way malnutrition affects human growth and development. The data indicates stunting and thinness markedly affects males more than females, especially in Africa, where stunting and thinness rates are twice as high for males than females. The relationship between malnutrition and violence is not well researched, especially in areas suffering from prolonged conflicts. In particular, the links between poor nutrition, brain development and emotional control need to be studied more deeply, and whether hunger may act as a motivator for young males joining militias. In 14 countries in sub-Saharan Africa, more than 10 percent of young men suffer from very low body mass. These countries are also among the least peaceful in the GPI.

In 2020, nearly 170 countries closed their borders, either partially or completely due to the Covid-19 pandemic. This severely affected refugee movement and resettlement. In 2020, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the number of refugees resettled or naturalised was the lowest on record. Only 250,000 refugees returned home compared to the pre-Covid average of 670,000.

returnees. In Europe, Turkey hosted the largest number of refugees at 3.9 million, followed by Germany at 1.5 million and France at 550,000.

This report proposes a number of policy recommendations to improve the efficiency of interventions and break the vicious cycles that exist in many parts of the world. Three of the key recommendations were:

- International agencies need new integrated structures that combine health, food, water, refugee relief, finance, agricultural, development and other functions. This would create area-specific integrated agencies that would be agile and built for specific contexts while also providing a simplified chain of command, better allocation of resources and faster decision making. The focus should be on building societal resilience.
- Many of the solutions to the ecological problems can generate income. An example is the provision of water that can then be used to grow food. If businesses can garner a profitable return from ecologically positive investments, funds will naturally flow towards solutions. These businesses need to be small scale and run by local business people. Better leveraging of carbon offsets for the local communities can also provide income.
- Empowering local communities. Community-led approaches to development and human security result in more effective programme design, easier implementation and more accurate evaluation. Due to the strong bonds within communities, cooperative can work well. This provides a mechanism for the pooling of resources and the dilution of costs.

In summary, ecological threats will continue to create humanitarian emergencies and will likely increase without a sustained effort to reverse the current trend. Ecological threats are becoming more pronounced and affecting more people than ever. Building resilience to these threats will increasingly become more important and will require substantial investment now and into the future.

Courtesy: IEP





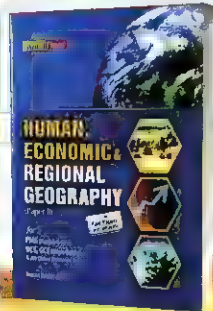
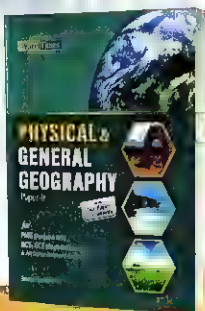
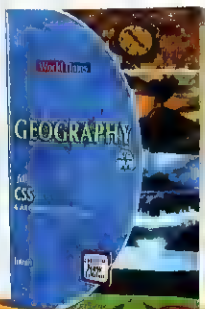
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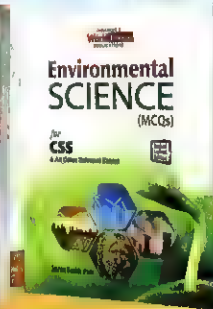
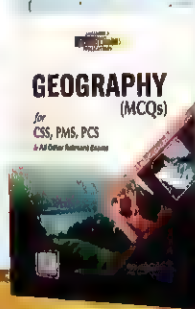
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# MANGROVES

## NATURE'S DEFENCE AGAINST TSUNAMIS

It was 26<sup>th</sup> of December 2004, when I first heard the word "tsunami" as I saw the horrific devastation it caused. The reason behind my unfamiliarity with this word could, perhaps, be the fact that people living in foothills are way far from the coasts. But when I saw harrowing scenes of havoc on the Indonesian island of Sumatra on TV and heard the word tsunami over and over again, a fear struck me from which one has to seek refuge in Allah. Afterwards, when I tried to know about tsunami, the facts that came to light revealed that the main reason behind this was 'earthquake', a word I was already acquainted with. The history of my city Quetta is replete with episodes of low and high-magnitude earthquakes and as a resident of this city, I have a lot of practical experience of tremors. Modern science is not yet able to predict the time and date of occurrence of an earthquake; however, pointing out of the places where they could hit is possible now.

Muhammad Atif Sheikh

**M**any Pakistani regions, such as Quetta, are located near fault lines that trigger earthquakes. One of such fault lines is the Makran Subduction Zone, located around 100 km southwest of Makran coast in the sea, where the Arabian and Eurasian tectonic plates meet. This is the place that could make Pakistan's coastal cities and populations hit by a tsunami at any time. Since this fault line is from east to west, it runs along the coast of Balochistan to the coastal areas of Iran. It was due to this fault line that the Makran coast was hit by a tsunami on November 28, 1945, which caused huge financial losses as well as 4,000 deaths. According to a research paper titled 'The Potential of Tsunami Generation along Karachi and the Makran Coast of Pakistan', published in Pakistan Journal of Meteorology, "Over 50 earthquakes of magnitude 8 and above have been reported in last 75 years along the coastline of Pakistan. Out of these, four were accompanied by tsunamis 1919, 1943, 1945 and 1956." In addition, according to the research paper, sediments accumulated along the Indus River delta can also take a crucial part in tsunami, because an earthquake with even a weaker magnitude can trigger a submarine landslide in these sediments causing tsunami or effect of an earthquake-triggered tsunami can be amplified by the consequent submarine landslide in these sediments.

Similarly, there is another fault line, called Murray Ridge, located southwest of Karachi in the North Arabian Sea. It separates the Indus Basin from the Oman Basin. Although tsunamis caused by seismic activity and other factors can affect long-distance coasts,

their effects can be very severe in nearby coastal areas. It is in this context that the United

Nations has designated 5<sup>th</sup> of November as World Tsunami Awareness Day in order to promote awareness on how to prevent this natural disaster and minimize the damage caused by it.

Since a tsunami can reach coastal populations within minutes, the only way to save human lives from this catastrophe is to set up a functional

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early-warning system so that people and livestock may be evacuated before a tsunami hits. In addition, if you are in a coastal area and feel the tremors, the first thing that can affect you badly is a tsunami. Therefore, along with the early-warning system, you should also keep an eye on the signs around you. To mitigate the loss of life and property, a number of measures are taken around the world. One of those measures is forests, especially the coastal forests. These are commonly known as mangroves. Owing to their natural setting, the mangrove forests provide natural protection to coasts. They act as a buffer zone between the sea and the human settlements. They are a powerful force to decrease the intensity of tidal surges, coastal floods and huge tsunami waves. They not only save coastal areas from sea erosion and landslides, but also strengthen the sand dunes on the beaches, making them a strong deterrence against huge sea waves. All these factors combine to make human populations safe and secure. The vitality of mangrove forests can be ascertained from experiments, conducted at Japan's University of Kyoto, which established that a 100-meter-wide belt of dense mangrove forest can mitigate the destructive energy of a tsunami by up to 90%.

The significance and utility of mangrove forests have become more vividly evident since the December 2004 tsunami. According to a study conducted after that catastrophic event, only 7% of the villages of the Andaman Islands in the Indian Ocean - that had ancient forests - were affected by tsunami. In contrast, 80-100 percent of rural areas where there were hardly any mangrove forests were devastated. Investigations into minor tsunami events since 2004 have also concluded that the protection of mangrove forests, their restoration and afforestation as strategic green belts are some inevitable measures to protect human settlements against tsunami.

How mangrove forests do that? Experts attribute this feature to the height of certain species of mangrove trees, the

elasticity of their trunks, canopied branches, and the thin roots that extend far into the water, both in and outside. These trees stand as a flexible net against tsunami's waves and absorb its force. It has been estimated that mangrove forests prevent more than \$65 billion in property damages every year reduce the risk of flooding for 15 million people each year. In simple words, these provide the most cost-effective, nature-based solution as restoring mangroves is five times more cost effective than building 'grey infrastructure' such as flood

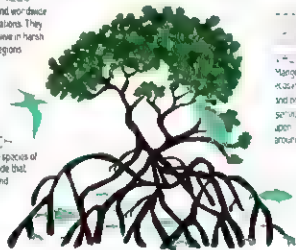
## What are mangroves?

### TROPICAL TREES

Mangroves are found worldwide around tropical locations. They are adapted to survive in harsh and salty coastal regions.

### SPECIES RICH

There are over 60 species of mangroves worldwide that thrive in harsh and salty conditions of the intertidal.



Mangroves support diverse ecosystems of marine life and provide goods and services to people living along coastal communities around the world.

walls or embankments, which also don't help with climate change. Simply put they are one of the most efficient, cost effective Nature-based Solutions (NbS).

Moreover, the engineered grey structure does not prove highly efficacious and suffers wear and tear due to effects of climate change and hurricanes. Thus, it requires constant financial resources for its maintenance. On the other hand, the most valuable virtue of a natural marine defence, like mangroves, is that they re-grow even of self-harm. Studies by United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) have established that every dollar invested in mangrove restoration provides a benefit of four dollars. Mangrove vegetation is characteristically present in river estuaries and along the coast where the land meets the sea. They are a common sight on mudflats and banks of tropical and subtropical rivers and coastlines in many parts of the world. According to World Atlas of Mangroves, these forests are found in 123 countries. They are found only in

deltas where the silt that has been washed away by the river water gets mixed with the seawater and is left on the shore.

The seawater keeps constantly moistening it with its strong waves. In some places, seawater is always present at shallow depths. This is why these wetlands, located at the confluence of freshwater and brackish water, are covered with dense mangrove forests. According to the State of the World's Mangroves 2021, "Overall, the total mangrove area was estimated to be 135,882km<sup>2</sup> in 2016 - 11.96% of the world's coastal area and 0.7% of the world's forests."

Pakistan is among the few lucky countries where this natural wealth exists in abundance. Mangrove forests are located in different parts of Pakistan's 1050-km-long coastal strip of Sindh and Balochistan. Sindh's 250 km long coastline is located in the southeastern part of the country between the Indus border along the Sir Creek on the east, and the Hub River along the Balochistan coast on the west. It can further be divided into two main parts: the Indus Delta/Creek and Karachi coast. Mangrove forests in Sindh, which are around 97% of Pakistan's total mangrove forests, are found in delta areas from Rann of Kutch to Karachi. This region has been formed due to the amalgamation of the freshwater of the Indus and millions of tons of silt it brought along. In this region, there is a network of creeks that are 17 in number. They range from Sir Creek, which is contentious between Pakistan and India, to Korangi Creek near Karachi. The Indus River Delta, an important landmark of Pakistan, is spread over an area of around 0.6 million hectares. It comprises many large and small streams that are formed before the flow of the Indus into the Arabian Sea. It is a fan-shaped delta that includes rivers, mud flats, sand dunes, mangrove habitat, swamps and ocean bays. The Indus Delta, which is the sixth largest in the world, receives freshwater from the Indus River, which flows through the delta before falling into the Sea. Mangrove forests are divided into two main blocks here: Keti Bandar Block and Shah Bandar Block. Beyond the Shah Bandar Block in Thatta district is a narrow strip of Rann of Kutch that has many important wetlands.

The 800-km-long coastline of Balochistan stretches from the mouth of Hub River in the east to the Gulf of Gwadar (border

with Iran) in the west. This coastline can also be divided into the coasts of Lasbela and Gwadar (districts of Balochistan province). There are several bays along the coast of Balochistan including Gwatar, Gwadar (West and East), Pasni and Sonmiani bays. The mixing of fresh river water with seawater on the Arabian Sea coast in Balochistan is dependent on seasonal rivers.

However, there has never existed a permanent water supply system, like that of the Indus

River, here and due to such a climate it is called "arid land". The area covered by mangrove forests here much less than that in Sindh which is around 3% of the total area of Pakistan under mangrove forest. Mangroves are found on three places along the coast of Balochistan: Miani Hor, Kalamat Khor and Gwatar Bay (Jivani). Although the survival of Sindh's mangrove forests is largely dependent on fresh river water, those of Balochistan are capable of withstanding the brackish water of the ocean. This is due to the disruption in the supply of river water and the development of their ability to adapt to seawater due to the natural

## Tsunami

Whenever sea floor is disturbed and deformed, it causes displacement of overlying water from its equilibrium position hence originating tsunami. Although, submarine landslides, volcanic eruptions or earthquake can be a possible cause but earthquake is the most likely cause. Within several minutes of the initiation, tsunami splits into two parts, one is called "distant tsunami" and other "local tsunami". Distant tsunami travels towards the deep ocean and local tsunami heads to the coastal areas. As the speed of tsunami is directly related to the depth of water, distant tsunamis travel at much faster speed than the local tsunamis.

## Why are mangroves unique?



SALT TOLERANT



PRODUCTIVE



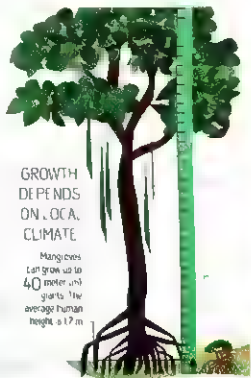
LOW OXYGEN  
ADAPTED



BIODIVERSITY  
HUB

GROWTH  
DEPENDS  
ON A COOL  
CLIMATE

Mangroves  
can grow up to  
40 meter and  
girth. The  
average human  
height is 1.7 m





evolutionary process.

The total area of mangrove forests in Pakistan has not been ascertained yet and different organizations have presented differing numbers. For example, in 1958, the dense mangrove forest area of 344846 hectares was transferred to the Sindh Forest Department. Then, we find in a 1966 document that the area of such forests is 344870 hectares. In 1985, the Sindh Forest Department declared this area to be 280,470 hectares. In 2003, SUPARCO stated that there were 86,728 hectares of mangrove forests on the country's coastline, out of which 82669 hectares was on the coast of Sindh and 4058 hectares on Balochistan's. Moreover, a book titled as "The Root Causes of Biodiversity Loss," (London, 2000) puts this figure at 132,000 hectares, of which 129,000 hectares are on the Indus Delta and 3,000 on the coast of Balochistan. According to a 2005 joint study by SUPARCO and the Sindh Forest Department, there were 55,760 hectares of mangrove forests in the province. A 2005 report by International Union for conservation of Nature (IUCN) suggests that mangrove forests in Sindh are spread over an area of 305,370 hectares. The WWF, in 2008-09, said that there were 18,128 hectares of mangrove forests in the country - 92412 on the Indus Delta and 1056 hectares along the coast of Karachi, as well as 4660 hectares on Balochistan's Makran coast. The Forest Resource Assessment of the Food

and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) reported an

area of 95,000 hectares in 2015. In addition, according to Global Mangrove Watch, the area of mangrove forests in Pakistan was 64,157 hectares in 2016. According to the Sindh Forest Department's website, the area of such forests is still 600,000 hectares in the

province. According to a statement from the Chief Conservator of Forests, Mangroves and Rangelands Sindh, the

area of these forests in the province was 107,000 hectares in 2009-10 which has increased to 220,000 hectares by 2020.

In a statement issued on July 26, 2021, WWF Pakistan told about the presence of mangrove forests on an area of 130,000 hectares in the Indus Delta.

In spite of these varying figures, one thing is universally accepted that Pakistan is the biggest country in terms of area under arid-climate mangrove forests.

Historically, eight species of mangroves have been found in the Indus Delta. However, four of them have become extinct due to rising salinity levels. At present,

Avicennia marina is the largest of four species of mangroves currently found in Sindh delta, having a share of around 90%. It is followed by Rhizophora mucronata with a percentage of 8%. The proportion of Aegiceras corniculatum is 1.5% and that of Ceriops tagal is 0.5%.

There are three species of mangroves along the Makran coast. Of the four species mentioned above, only Ceriops tagal is not found in the coastal areas of Balochistan while the other three are found there. Miani Hor is the only area where these three types of mangroves are found. ■

The writer can be contacted at: [musteratil@yahoo.co.in](mailto:musteratil@yahoo.co.in)

## Delta

Noted wildlife expert Abdul Manaf

Qaim Khani explains that about 2500

years ago, the Greek historian Herodotus reached the part of the Nile from where it would fall into the Mediterranean Sea. There, he saw that the Nile water mingles with the seawater but the sand and silt it brought along with it would continue to form a tract of land. He observed that tract carefully and found that it was in the shape of a triangle. In Roman, a triangle is called 'dellia'. So, Herodotus named this piece of land as delta, extending from the mouth of the Nile to the Mediterranean, and thus giving the land created at the mouths of the rivers a new name. At present, about 2% of the world's land area is covered by this delta.



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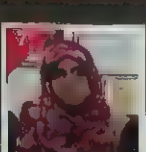
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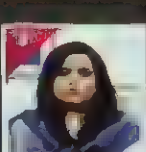
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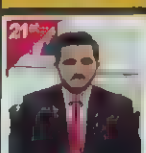
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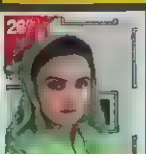
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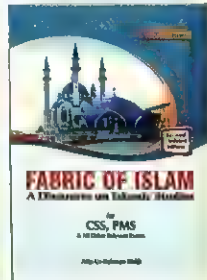
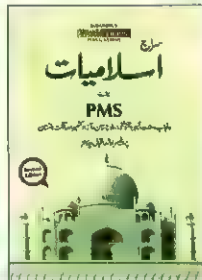
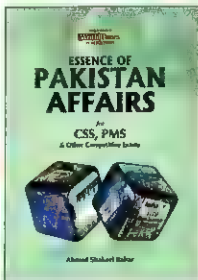
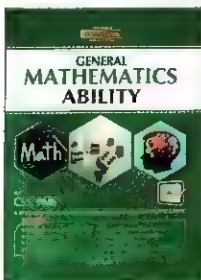
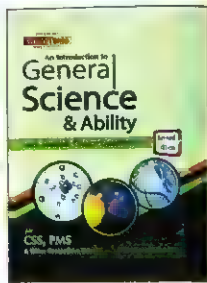
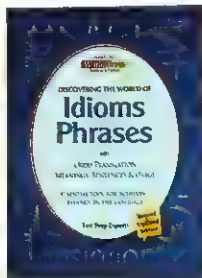
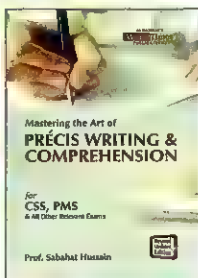
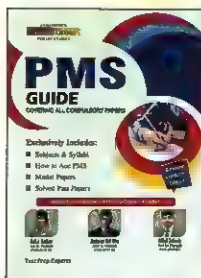
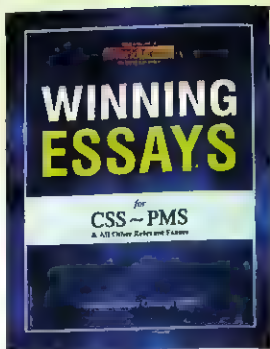
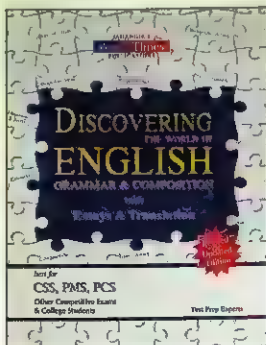
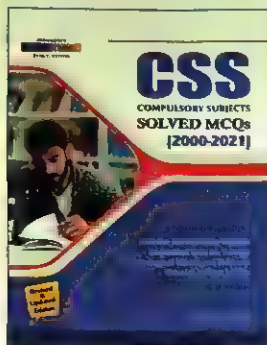
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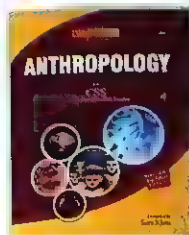
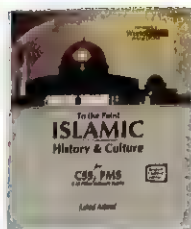
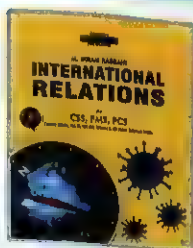
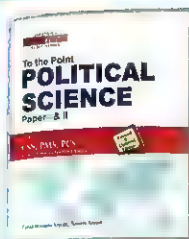
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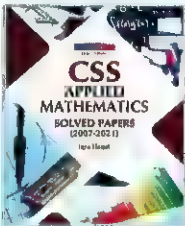
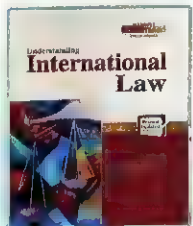
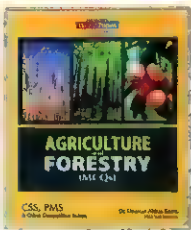
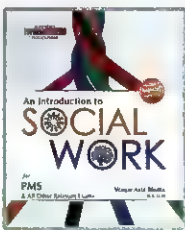
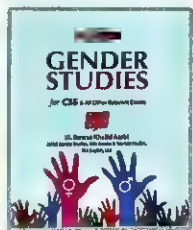
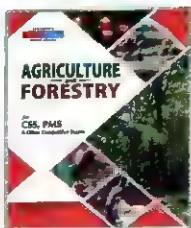
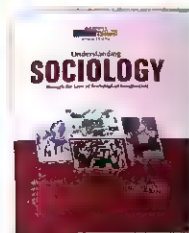
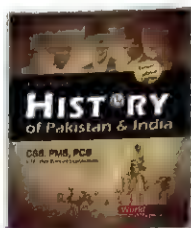
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## WORLD IN FOCUS

## NATIONAL

M. Usman Butt



**Sept. 16:** Pakistan and China signed an agreement to promote two-way tourism in Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) countries.

**Sept. 16:** United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Filippo Grandi, called on Chief of the Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa (COAS Bajwa) at the GHQ.

**Sept. 16:** Afghanistan's immediate neighbours — Pakistan, Iran, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Kazakhstan — met in Dushanbe to deliberate on how to engage with the Taliban from the platform of SCO.

**Sept. 16:** Prime Minister Imran Khan (PMK) held several meetings with the international leaders on the sidelines of the 20th SCO-CHS meeting in Dushanbe.

**Sept. 16:** Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) published the Labour Force Survey (LFS) according to which the number of people actively looking for jobs increased by 0.92 million to 4.71m in FY19 from 3.79m the previous year as the number of the country's total workforce rose to 68.73m from 65.5m during the period under review.

**Sept. 17:** New Zealand unilaterally pulled out of their cricket series against Pakistan over security concerns.

**Sept. 17:** Pakistan-Tajikistan Joint Business Forum was held in Dushanbe.

**Sept. 17:** The National Assembly unanimously passed a resolution paying rich tributes to veteran Kashmiri leader, Syed Ali Geelani.

**Sept. 18:** Argentina, in a draft budget for 2022 presented to its Parliament, officially included \$664 million (Rs11.6 billion) in funding for the purchase of JF-17 Thunder fighter jets from Pakistan.

**Sept. 18:** PMK announced that he has initiated dialogue with Taliban for formation of an inclusive government in Afghanistan, representing multiple ethnic groups.

**Sept. 18:** The Pakistan Army troops participated in the multinational UN Peacekeeping Exercise 'Shared Destiny 2021' conducted at Queshan Training Base of Chinese People's Liberation Army.

**Sept. 19:** World-renowned scholar and former judge of Federal Shariat Court Maulana Mufti Muhammad Taqi Usmani was elected as the president of Wafaqul Madaris Arabia.

**Sept. 19:** Murad Ali (NBP) and Mahoor Shahzad (WAPDA) took the

## DNA Evidence for Rape

The refusal by a sessions court in Karachi to consider DNA tests as evidence in the retrial of the Mazar-i-Quaid gang rape case is surprising, given that the Supreme Court had declared DNA evidence to be admissible in rape cases many years ago. A few days ago, the court acquitted, for the second time, the three accused in the gang-rape case. The court was holding a retrial of the case on the instructions of the Sindh High Court. According to the prosecution, the DNA evidence clearly showed that the three accused were involved in the rape, but the court decided not to consider the evidence. The victim's lawyer appealed for hearing the case under the Pakistan Penal Code, rather than the Hudood Ordinance. However, the court stated that since the Hudood laws had their own standard of proof, the DNA evidence did not have any evidentiary value. The court decided to acquit the accused stating that the prosecution 'failed to produce sufficient evidence through their witnesses of the incident'. The trial court had also acquitted the accused in April 2013 on the same basis.

Meanwhile, the retrial court's decision is all the more perplexing given that the Sindh government made DNA testing mandatory in rape cases via the Code of Criminal Procedure (Sindh Amendment) Bill, 2017, and also allowed for the law's retrospective application in all ongoing cases. The decision seems to be controversial given the fact that the Mazar-i-Quaid gang rape case was registered by police under Section 365-B of the Pakistan Penal Code and Section 376(II) of the Protection of Women (Criminal Laws Amendment) Act, 2006, calling for life imprisonment of those found guilty. In a society where misogynistic mindsets have made crimes against women rampant, this selective application of the laws is akin to not only justifying the crime but also exonerating the perpetrators. One hopes that civil society and the higher judiciary take notice of this decision and provide alternative legal recourse to the victim.



# The 20th Annual LUX Style Awards List of Winners

Best Singer (Viewers Choice)	Abbas Ali Khan for Mein Yeh Janoun Na
Best Song (Viewers Choice)	Bayaan for Teri Tasveer
Best Emerging Talent (Jury Vote)	Aziz Khan
Best Video Director (Jury Vote)	Hamza Bin Tahir for Teri Tasveer
Best TV Play (Viewers Choice)	Momina Duraid and ISPR for Ehd-e-Wafa
Best TV Actor (Viewers Choice)	Danish Taimoor for Deewangi
Best TV Actress (Viewers Choice)	Yumna Zaidi for Pyaar Ke Sadqay
Original Soundtrack (Viewers Choice)	Ehd-e-Wafa Ke Naam
Best Male Actor (Critics)	Bilal Abbas for Pyaar Ke Sadqay
Best Female Actor (Critics)	Yumna Zaidi for Pyaar Ke Sadqay
Best Play Writer (Critics)	Umara Ahmed for Alif
Best Play Director (Critics)	Farooq Rind for Pyaar Ke Sadqay
Best Emerging Talent	Adnan Samad Khan for Ehd-e-Wafa
Fashion Category (Critics Vote)	
Model of the Year (Female)	Mushk Kaleem
Model of the Year (Male)	Sachal Abzal
Achievement in Fashion Design	Generabon for Pret
Achievement in Fashion Design	Husain Rehar for Luxury Pret
Achievement in Fashion Design	Shehla Chatoor for Bridal Couture
Best Menswear Designer	Ismail Fand
Best Fashion Photographer	Najam Mehmood
Best Hair & Make Up Artist	Sunil Nawab
Best Emerging Talent	Sarah Zulfiqar
LUX Changemakers Award	Haseena Moin
Lifetime Achievement in Fashion	Bunto Kazmi
Unilever Chairman's Lifetime Achievement Award	Fanda Khanum



titles of the All Pakistan National Ranking Badminton tournament

Sept. 19: A contingent of Pakistan Army, Navy and Air Force

participated for the first time since 2009 in multinational exercise 'Bright Star 2021' at Mohamed Naguib Military Base, Egypt. Troops from Egypt, United States, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Cyprus, Iraq, Bahrain, Sudan, Morocco, Kenya, Italy, Spain, United Kingdom, Greece, Kuwait, UAE, Tunisia, Nigeria, Tanzania and France participated in this two-week-long exercise.

Sept. 20: England cricket chiefs withdrew their men's and women's teams from white ball series in Pakistan citing "increasing concerns about travelling to the region".

Sept. 20: PMIK addressed an informal meeting on Climate Change through video link. The meeting was convened jointly by the Prime Minister of UK and the UN Secretary General.

Sept. 21: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Power and Petroleum, Tabish Gauhar, was sacked.

Sept. 21: Punjab CM Usman Buzdar appointed Syed Tariq Mahmood-Ul-Hassan the Vice Chairperson of Punjab Overseas Commission.

Sept. 21: In its latest report titled 'Freedom on the Net 2021: The Global Drive to Control Big Tech', the Washington-based Freedom House found Pakistan among top 10 countries in the world where internet freedom has been on the decline.

Sept. 22: The two-week-long Trilateral Exercise of the special forces of Pakistan, Turkey and Azerbaijan, Three Brothers - 2021, culminated at Baku, Azerbaijan.

Sept. 23: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi (FM Qureshi) met with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and discussed bilateral relations and the situation in Afghanistan.

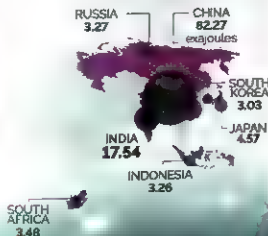
Sept. 23: PMIK announced bifurcation of South Waziristan

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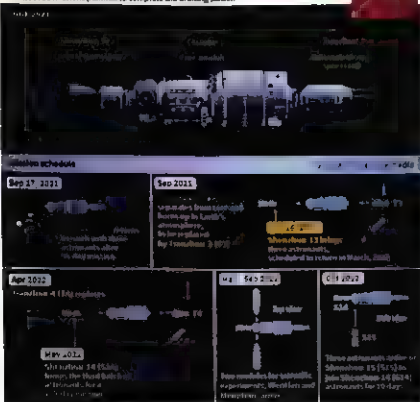
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## WORLD'S BIGGEST COAL CONSUMERS



## How China plans to build up its space station

A total of 14 missions planned to complete the orbiting station



into two districts.

**Sept. 23:** The Supreme Court of Pakistan (SC) ruled that women can only claim inheritance within their lifetime, and their children would have no rights in this regard later.

**Sept. 24:** PMIK addressed the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly and told the world that humanitarian assistance has to be given to Afghanistan immediately.

**Sept. 24:** One of the most stylish television actors of his time, Talat Iqbal, died.

**Sept. 24:** Retired Lt Gen Ishfaq Nadeem Ahmed, former Chief of the General Staff (CGS) and ex Director General Military Operations (DGMO) passed away at the age of 62.

**Sept. 24:** The Paris Club of creditor countries gave Pakistan another extension to service its debt.

**Sept. 25:** Pakistan's permanent mission for the United Nations' counselor Ms Saima Saleem turned up the first visually impaired diplomat of the world who spoke to the world body by using brail system of reading/writing.

**Sept. 25:** Pakistan and China agreed to include multi-billion dollar Karachi Coastal Comprehensive Development Zone (KCCDZ) under the CPEC framework.

**Sept. 25:** Huawei, a leading global provider of information and communications technology (ICT) infrastructure and smart devices, announced its Cloud Consulting partnership with Techaccess Pakistan, an innovative technology and consulting company.

**Sept. 25:** Nineteen-year-old Shehroze Kashif became Pakistan's youngest mountaineer to scale Manaslu, the world's eighth highest peak.

**Sept. 26:** Oldest Pak army veteran Lt Col Sultan Mohammed Khan Mengal (ret'd) passed away. He was 103.

**Sept. 26:** Brig Mohsin Farooq won the 11th President SGA Cup.

**Sept. 27:** Miraj Gul was appointed the managing director of National Telecommunication Corporation (NTC).

**Sept. 28:** A team of students from Pakistan Navy Engineering

College of NUST won overall second position at the Formula Student Russia '21 (FSR), thereby securing first-ever podium for Pakistan in any Formula Student Competition.

**Sept. 28:** Pakistan's former High Commissioner in Britain and veteran journalist Wajid Shamsul Hasan passed away.

**Sept. 28:** Former national badminton champion Tania Mallick was appointed the PCB's Head of Women's Cricket.

**Sept. 28:** During a meeting between FM Qureshi and UK Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Women and Equality Liz Truss, Pakistan and the United Kingdom agreed to form a joint working group to formulate a strategy for strengthening bilateral ties in multiple spheres, including trade and investment.

**Sept. 29:** The government appointed Dr Asif Mahmood Jafar the Federal Tax Ombudsman (FTO) for a period of four years.

**Sept. 29:** The opening ceremony of Druzhba VI, a joint exercise of special forces of Pakistan and the Russian Federation, was held at the Molkino Trg Area, Krasnodar, Russia.

**Sept. 30:** The government promoted three officers of Pakistan Air Force (PAF) - Chaudhary Ahsan Rafiq, Waqas Ahmed Sulehri and Ahmad Hassan - to the rank of Air Marshal.

**Oct. 01:** In an unprecedented move, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Shah Farman surrendered Rs96.021 million discretionary funds available in the designated accounts to the national exchequer.

**Oct. 01:** Danish Foreign Affairs Minister Jeppe Kofod called on COAS Bajwa at GHQ.

**Oct. 01:** Mountaineer Sirbaz Khan scaled the 8,167-metre-high Dhaulagiri mountain in Nepal, becoming the first Pakistani to climb nine of the world's highest 14 peaks - each of which has a height of more than 8,000 metres.

**Oct. 01:** The first Pakistan-China technical vocational institute was inaugurated in Gwadar.

**Oct. 02:** Veteran actor, King of comedy and living legend, Umer Sharif, passed away in Germany. He was 66.

**Oct. 03:** The Pandora Papers revealed that Pakistanis were ranked fifth among those buying properties in London through offshore companies.

**Oct. 03:** Major joint 'Naval Exercise Naseem Al Bahr XIII' between Pakistan Navy and Royal Saudi Naval Forces (RSNF) commenced at Karachi.

**Oct. 03:** The opening ceremony of 53rd World Military Shooting Championship (Shotgun) 2021 was held at Lahore under the auspices of Conseil International du Sport Militaire, commonly known as International Military Sports Council.

**Oct. 04:** PMIK set up three-member high level investigation cell on the matter of Pandora Papers.

**Oct. 04:** Closing ceremony of the Joint Anti-Terrorist Exercise (JATE-2021) was held at the National Counter-Terrorism Centre (NCTC), Pabli.

**Oct. 04:** PMIK announced a 40 percent targeted subsidy for the poor on purchase of essential food items.

**Oct. 05:** In his address to the World Leaders Summit Dialogue organised on the occasion of 15th Quadrennial Meeting of United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), PMIK called for prioritising vaccine equity, debt relief, climate finance and return of stolen wealth to developing countries as part of global economic recovery.

## How to save water?

Pakistan had vast opportunities to overcome water to lack of practical measures, millions of acre feet of Indus River Systems Authority (IRSA), Pakistan's year from glacier melt, snowfall and rainfall, but the of available water. In other parts of the world, the experts, if water scarcity is not overcome, by 2025, from water scarcity.

Pakistan needs water to support its agriculture economy. If the Department of Agriculture and other together, a revolution in the agricultural sector should construct small ponds in rural areas to store rainwater in this way, besides meeting the irrigation groundwater could also be improved. If water is constructing a pond of two to three kanals, it will production. These ponds can be fished and past 'flood drains' were constructed to divert control drains need to be constructed to recharge distances. Ponds could be built along the canals to prevent rainwater from being wasted. In case of floods, canal or rain water can be collected in these ponds and used for irrigation. In addition to fishing in days of drought or closure of canals.



scarcity by storing water of rain and flood, but due water goes to waste every year. According to the rivers receive 134 million acre feet of water each country has the capacity to store only 10 percent rate is more than 40 percent. According to water Pakistan will be among the countries suffering

sector which forms the backbone of the national federal and provincial departments work could be brought in a short period of time. We rainwater for agricultural purposes. By storing requirements for crops, the level and quality of stored in every five acres of agricultural land by increase the fertility of the land and increase vegetables can be planted on the sides. In the rainwater to the rivers immediately but now the groundwater by stopping the water at short

from the devastating effects of Covid-19 pandemic.

Oct. 05: During the 11th Session of Pakistan-Iran Bilateral Political Consultations, Pakistan and Iran agreed to coordinate closely at bilateral and regional level to reinforce efforts for peace and stability in Afghanistan.

Oct. 05: Pakistan's Abdul Waheed bagged gold medal in the 50+ category at the World Bodybuilding and Physique Sports Championship in Tashkent.

Oct. 06: Karachi Corps Commander Lt Gen Nadeem Ahmed Anjum was appointed the new Director General of the Inter Services Intelligence (ISI), replacing Lt Gen Fajz Hameed who was posted as Corps Commander Peshawar.

Oct. 06: National Defence University (NDU), Islamabad, President Lt Gen Muhammad Saeed was posted as Karachi Corps Commander. Lt. Gen Nauman Mehmood, serving as Peshawar Corps Commander, was posted as NDU President.

Oct. 06: Gujranwala Corps Commander Lt Gen Syed Asim Munir Shah (former ISI chief) was made the Quarter Master General, replacing Lt Gen Amir Abbasi who along with Inspector General Arms Lt Gen Majid Ehsan and Commander Army Air Defence Command Lt Gen Hamooduz Zaman Khan is to retire.

Oct. 06: Adjutant General Lt Gen Muhammad Amir was posted as Gujranwala Corps Commander.

Oct. 06: Vice Chief of the General Staff Maj Gen Muhammad Asim Malik of Baloch Regiment was promoted to the three-star rank and posted as Adjutant General.

Oct. 06: President Dr Arif Alvi promulgated the National Accountability (Amendment) Ordinance, 2021 paving the way for continuation of the incumbent Chairman Justice (R) Javed Iqbal on the post till the appointment of his successor.

Oct. 06: The last survivor of Pindi Conspiracy Case,

## The last war that brought Arab countries against Israel

### Yom Kippur

Nearly half a century has passed since Yom Kippur, the last war that Egypt and Syria launched against Israel on Oct. 6, 1973, and that Israel clashed with Arab countries on the field.



#### 1973 YOM KIPPUR WAR

Wanting to take back the Sinai Peninsula and Golan Heights that Israel occupied in the Six-Day War, Egypt and Syria declared war on Israel on Oct. 6.

The war is called Yom Kippur as it started on the Day of Atonement that is holy for the Jewish people.

In the attacks launched simultaneously, Egypt advanced on Sinai, and Syria entered the Golan Heights.

Israel started a counter-attack first on the Golan Heights and then Sinai.

Israel repelled the Syrian army on Oct. 9.

Israel forces moved towards the west of the Suez Canal on Oct. 16.

#### TRUCE PROCESS

Truce on the Sinai front came after the UN dispatched peacekeeping forces to the region on Oct. 26.

The final agreement between Egypt and Israel was signed, with the US as the guarantor, on Jan. 18, 1974.

The agreement between Tel Aviv and Damascus was inked on June 3, 1974.

Israel continued its hold of the Golan Heights that it occupied in 1967.

#### WAR IN NUMBERS

##### ISRAEL

Over 2,500 soldiers  
102 warplanes  
Over 400 tanks

##### EGYPT AND SYRIA

3,000 Egyptian and 3,000 Syrian soldiers  
Over 350 warplanes  
Nearly 2,200 tanks

Zafarullah Poshni, passed away. He was 95.

**Oct. 06:** Provincial minister Fayyazul Hassan Chohan was removed as spokesperson of the Punjab government and was replaced by Hassan Khawar.

**Oct. 06:** Pakistan's Shehzad Qureshi won a silver medal in the 80kg event at the World Bodybuilding and Physique Sports Championship at Tashkent.

**Oct. 07:** Ejaz Ahmad, one of the tallest men in Pakistan with eight feet and two inches height, died. He was 42.

**Oct. 08:** During a meeting with Wendy R. Sherman, US deputy secretary of state, COAS Bajwa emphasised maintaining meaningful bilateral engagement for an enduring multi-domain relationship between Pakistan and the USA.

**Oct. 08:** PMIK ordered setting up of a special body for coordinating Afghanistan-related matters.

**Oct. 08:** The federal government issued a commemorative coin of Rs 70 to mark the 70-year diplomatic relations with the Federal Republic of Germany.

**Oct. 09:** The closing ceremony of military exercise "Druzhba-VI" was held at Molkino Training Area, Krasnodar, Russia.

**Oct. 09:** President Alvi formally inaugurated Pakistan Pavilion at the Dubai Expo 2020.

**Oct. 09:** Former president and prime minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan passed away.

**Oct. 10:** Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan, celebrated as the father of Pakistan's nuclear weapons programme, died at 85.

**Oct. 10:** PMIK inaugurated the Ashra of Rehmatul Ili Alameen (Peace be Upon Him) and announced the establishment of Rehmat Ili-Alameen Authority to make the country and the world aware of Islam and the life of the Holy Prophet (PBUH).

**Oct. 10:** Mohammad Shabbir Iqbal won the 29th Prime Minister Open Golf Championship 2021.

**Oct. 11:** PML-N Lahore President, Member National Assembly and former Federal Minister, Pervaiz Malik, passes away.

**Oct. 11:** Mohammad Sajjad won the fourth overall national snooker title.

**Oct. 12:** President Alvi appointed Zahir Shah the deputy chairman of NAB.

**Oct. 13:** Major General Mohammad Bagheri, Chief of the General Staff (CGS) of Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, along with a high-level delegation, separately called on Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee General Nadeem Raza and COAS Bajwa.

**Oct. 14:** State-of-the-art Chinese-origin HQ-9/P HIMADS (high to medium air defence system) was commissioned into the Pakistan Army Air Defence.

**Oct. 14:** Former SAPM Zulfi Bukhari won his defamation case against Rehman Khan.

**Oct. 14:** The Ministry of Information Technology & Telecommunication notified "Removal and Blocking of Unlawful Online Content (Procedures, Oversight, and Safeguards) Rules 2021" for streamlining the functioning of social media companies in Pakistan.

**Oct. 14:** Syed Khalid Siraj Subhani was appointed the acting Managing Director of Oil and Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL).

**Oct. 14:** President Alvi promulgated an ordinance for the establishment of the Rehmatul-Ili Alameen Authority.

**Oct. 14:** Khyber Pakhtunkhwa won, for the second consecutive time, the National T20 title.

**Oct. 15:** PMIK launched Kisan Portal.

**Oct. 15:** The Awwan-e-Sadr was awarded an international certification of ISO 50001 EnMS, making it the world's first President Secretariat to go green.

**Oct. 15:** The SC directed the Punjab government to ensure until October 20 the restoration of local government system in the province.

**Oct. 15:** Pakistan ranked 92nd out of the 116 countries, with a score of 24.7, on Global Hunger Index, 2021.

## Points from NSA Dr Moeed Yusuf's Talk with the Foreign Media

1. It would be a blunder if the international community abandoned Afghanistan as it did in the past as it would result in refugee and security crises that will not remain confined to the region only.
2. The West needs to learn lesson from the past and go ahead to support Afghans for bringing long-lasting peace and stability in the war-ravaged country.
3. India was in hyper-drive making fictitious stories against Pakistan. Recently, Indian media and ex-officials were mocked widely on social media for using a video game ARMA-3 clip to present it as bombardment done by the Pakistani Air Force in Panysheer valley.
4. Indian media also used the video of a US fighter aircraft flying over Wales, United Kingdom to allege Pakistan Air Force's F-16 fighter jet hovering over Panysheer valley.
5. India was brutalizing Kashmiris in IOJK and credible Indian and international sources have detailed how Indian security forces had used pellet guns for blinding children, staged fake encounters to frame innocents as militants, and engineered enforced disappearances and mass graves.
6. India had befuddled the US and North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) by portraying Pakistan as troublesome in Afghanistan but, on the contrary, the then Afghan government was itself the cause of the disaster and Afghan National Security Forces did not opt to fight for a corrupt regime.
7. There are huge and increasing similarities between Nazi Germany and Hindutva India. If the hostile role of Hindutva-dominated India was ignored by the global community, not only the region but the entire world would have to face the dire consequences.
8. The world could no longer close its eyes to Modi government's agenda if it truly cared for stability in a nuclear region.
9. Pakistan is committed to having a peaceful and stable Afghanistan.
10. The world should engage with Taliban to give peace a chance in Afghanistan after the passage of four decades. Pakistan has a right to ensure its national security and will do so by engaging with the Taliban.



## INTERNATIONAL

Sept. 16: British Prime Minister Boris Johnson nominated Liz Truss to be Britain's new foreign secretary, making her only the second woman to hold this post.

Sept. 16: The United States announced a new alliance with Australia and Britain - dubbed AUKUS - to strengthen military capabilities in the face of a rising China.

Sept. 16: The European Parliament called on the 27-nation bloc to strengthen its defence cooperation and investment to become more independent of the United States after the withdrawal from Afghanistan.

Sept. 17: UK's Secretary of State for Transport R. Hon Grant Shapps announced to remove Pakistan from the United Kingdom's red list on September 22.

Sept. 17: France recalled its ambassadors to the United States and Australia.

Sept. 17: Three Chinese astronauts returned to Earth after completing the country's longest-ever crewed mission - 90 days at the Tiangong space station.

Sept. 17: The International Criminal Court's (ICC) new prosecutor named prominent rights lawyer Amal Clooney as a special adviser on Sudan's Darfur conflict.

Sept. 17: The US State Department approved a potential agreement covering up to \$500 million in military support services for Saudi Arabia.

Sept. 17: Taliban replaced Afghanistan's Ministry of women with "Ministries of Prayer and Guidance and the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice".

Sept. 17: Clive Sinclair, the British inventor and entrepreneur, who arguably did more than anyone else to inspire a whole generation of children into a life-long passion for computers and gaming, died. He was 81.

Sept. 17: While asking the Afghan Taliban to yield power to a 'more inclusive government', leaders of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in the 20th SCO's Council of Heads of State meeting in Dushanbe, the capital of Tajikistan, reminded the West in general and the United States in particular that it was their responsibility to help avert a humanitarian disaster in Afghanistan.

## The World's Most Innovative Countries

2021 ranking of the Global Innovation Index (100 = most innovative)



Sept. 17: US President Joe Biden launched 'Global Methane Pledge' initiative to slash methane gas emissions and cut warming by at least 0.2 degrees Celsius by 2050.

Sept. 17: Abdelaziz Bouteflika, who ruled Algeria for two decades before resigning in 2019, died aged 84.

Sept. 18: Members of the SCO endorsed Iran's future membership in the bloc. Iran, one of four SCO observer states, had applied for full membership in 2008 but its bid was slowed by UN and US sanctions imposed over its nuclear programme.

Sept. 18: Khadija Patel, the head of programmes for the International Fund for Public Interest Media and former editor-in-chief of South Africa's Mail & Guardian newspaper, was elected as the 35th chair of the International Press Institute (IPI)'s global executive board.

Sept. 19: Jimmy Greaves, the former Tottenham and England striker, died aged 81.

Sept. 21: The Taliban nominated their Doha-based spokesman Suhail Shaheen as Afghanistan's UN ambassador.

Sept. 21: Field marshal Mohammed Hussein Tantawi, who headed the military junta that ruled Egypt after President Hosni Mubarak's ouster in the Arab Spring protests, died at age 85.

Sept. 21: The Taliban sacked the head of Afghanistan's cricket board Hamid Shinwari, replacing him with Naseebullah Haqqani, a member of the Haqqani network.

Sept. 21: Canadian prime minister Justin Trudeau was reelected, but without a clear majority in the country's snap elections.

Sept. 22: The opening ceremony of the exercise 'Peace Mission' under the ambit of SCO was held in Russia. Troops from all SCO member states participated in the exercise.

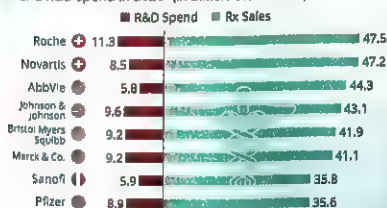
Sept. 22: Chinese president Xi Jinping announced to stop his country's funding to coal projects overseas.

Sept. 23: Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) issued its yearbook 2021 according to which India is the second biggest importer of arms, after Saudi Arabia, whereas Pakistan is ranked at the 10th position.

Sept. 24: During the first in-person summit of the Quad group was held in the White House, the leaders of member

## The World's Biggest Players in Pharma

World's biggest biopharma companies ranked by Rx sales and R&D spend in 2020\* (in billion U.S. dollars)



## The Widening Trade Deficit

The landmark UN-sponsored Conference of Parties (COP) held in Paris in 2015 had set the goal of net-zero carbon emissions by 2050 and reducing the global average temperature well below 2 degree Celsius this century. The COP26, being held in Glasgow, Scotland, from October 31, a year after it was delayed because of Covid-19 pandemic, will judge how close or away is the world community from the goals fixed by the Paris accord. The conference, which will be attended by over one hundred heads of state and government and thousands of climate change activists, is also expected to fix new goals. The conference is likely to remind the developed countries of their promise of at least \$100 billion in climate finance per year by 2020. There is no clear answer to the question whether the COP26 will be able to keep up the tempo generated by the Paris conference or it will be only confined to talk shows. Swedish activist Greta Thunberg says the COP26 is unlikely to lead to a "big change" but there is the sudden realization that we are facing an existential crisis and have to confront it. However, the conference would definitely miss the attendance of top leaders of China and Russia. But their absence is likely to be compensated by leaders of the developed countries who would be there to recommit their financial help to mitigate the negative impact of carbon emissions. Unlike the then US President, Donald Trump, who withdrew from the Paris agreement, the US would be represented by its current President Joe Biden. It is however difficult to speculate on oil-producing Middle Eastern countries' response to the COP26. On the face of it, the climate change crisis poses a double whammy to them - while the world would be shifting to renewables in place of oil the rising temperatures are expected to create unlivable crisis for the oil-rich Middle East. Their deserts are expanding and dust storms intensifying, impacting river systems that supply water to millions.

Through no fault of its own, Pakistan is a severe casualty of climate change. It is however heartening to note that the incumbent government is conscious of the impending threat of climate change and its perilous consequences on the national economy. The '10 billion tree tsunami' and other related initiatives clearly show Prime Minister Imran Khan's strong commitment to climate protection. But he is not optimistic about the outcome of the COP26. Writing for The Times, he says the climate conference will end in failure without the developed countries meeting their financial commitment.

states - United States Australia, India and Japan - discussed their Covid vaccines drive, regional infrastructure, climate change and securing supply chains for the vital semiconductors used in computer technology.

Sept. 24: China's central bank declared all financial transactions involving cryptocurrencies as illegal.

Sept. 25: Huawei executive Meng Wanzhou was headed home from Vancouver as two Canadians were released from prison in China, ending a bitter diplomatic row that has poisoned ties for three years.

Sept. 25: Pak-India women's rights icon Kamla Bhasin passed away.

Sept. 26: Final results of election in Iceland gave women more than half of the seats in the new parliament - a first in Europe. Five other countries that currently have parliaments where women hold at least half the seats, are: Rwanda (61 percent), Cuba (53 percent), Nicaragua (51 percent) and Mexico and the United Arab Emirates (50 percent).

Sept. 26: Oleksandr Usyk ended Anthony Joshua's reign as world heavyweight champion in boxing.

Sept. 26: In a referendum, nearly two-thirds of Swiss voters backed the government's plan to introduce same-sex marriage.

Sept. 26: The US Treasury Department issued licenses to facilitate humanitarian aid and financial assistance to the people of Afghanistan, while upholding sanctions on the Taliban.

Sept. 27: German Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservatives lost election to the Social Democrats in a tight race.

Sept. 27: The United States crushed Europe to recapture the Ryder Cup.

Sept. 27: The International Criminal Court's new chief prosecutor said he wants to focus his investigation in Afghanistan on the Taliban and Islamic State-Khorasan (IS-K), and to "deprioritise" alleged war crimes by US forces.

Sept. 27: Representatives from Iran and Saudi Arabia held a new round of talks in Baghdad.

Sept. 27: Tessa Ganserer and Nyke Slawik, politicians from Germany's Green Party, which came third in the election, made history by becoming the first transgender women to win parliamentary seats in Bundestag.

Sept. 28: A bill was introduced in the US Senate requiring assessments and imposition of sanctions on the Taliban and persons assisting them in Afghanistan.

Titled as the Afghanistan Counterterrorism, Oversight, and Accountability Act, the bill also seeks to establish a task force that will focus on continued evacuation of American citizens,

legal permanent residents and Special Immigrant Visa holders from Afghanistan.

Sept. 28: The Taliban announced to temporarily adopt a 1964 constitution that granted women the right to vote, but eliminate any elements they disagree with.

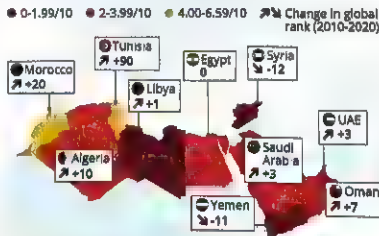
Sept. 28: Nuclear-armed North Korea fired a short-range missile into the sea.

Sept. 28: England World Cup winner and Liverpool's record league goalscorer Roger Hunt died at the age of 83.

Sept. 29: China revealed a drone concept similar in mission - and appearance - to the US-made Kratos XQ-58A.

## 10 Years After the Arab Spring: Gains for Democracy?

Selected countries in the Arab World by their 2020 EIU Democracy Index score and change in rank (2010-2020)



Source: Economist Intelligence Unit

Valkyrie  
Sept. 29: Top Rohingya community leader Mohib Ullah was shot dead in a refugee camp in the Bangladesh resort district of Cox's Bazar.

Sept. 29: North Korea announced to have successfully tested a new hypersonic gliding missile.

Hypersonic missiles are generally defined as travelling more than five times the speed of sound, or Mach 5.

Sept. 30: Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan discussed deepening defence industry cooperation with Russia during talks with his counterpart Vladimir Putin.

Sept. 30: General Mark Milley, chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, conceded in a stark admission that the United States "lost" the 20-year war in Afghanistan.

Sept. 30: A French court handed former president Nicolas Sarkozy a one-year prison sentence for illegal financing of his 2012 re-election bid.

Oct. 01: Col Mamady Doumbouya was sworn in as Guinea's interim president.

Oct. 01: After eight years of planning and billions of dollars in spending, Dubai Expo 2020 - the Middle East's first world fair opened.

Oct. 02: Qatar wrapped up its first legislative election to elect 30 members of the 45-strong Shura Council. The remaining 15 will be appointed by the emir.

Oct. 03: The Washington-based International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ) released a huge tranche of leaked data on offshore companies that is larger in size and scope than the Panama Papers, hit the global headlines.

This new leak has uncovered the finances of more leaders and



public officials than did the Panama Papers and provides more than twice information about the ownership of offshore companies. In all, the new leaks uncover the real owners of more than 29,000 offshore companies from more than 200 countries with the largest contingents from Russia, UK, Argentina, China and Brazil. The highest number of companies linked with world leaders and other public officials were registered in the British Virgin Islands.

Oct. 03: French business magnate,

actor and former politician Bernard Tapie died. He was 78.

Oct. 03: The European-Japanese BepiColombo spacecraft sent back its first images of Mercury, the nearest planet to the Sun.

Oct. 03: The Algerian government banned French military planes from its airspace.

Oct. 03: Austria's government unveiled an "eco-social" reform of the tax system, a key promise of the conservative-green coalition. Under the measures, Austria will follow the example of neighbouring Germany and introduce a tax on carbon dioxide emissions.

Oct. 03: Swedish artist Lars Vilks, who had lived under police protection since making a derogatory sketch in 2007, died in a car crash.

Oct. 04: Russia launched a new hypersonic cruise missile 'Zircon' from a submarine, the latest test of emerging weapons President Vladimir Putin has dubbed 'invincible'.

Oct. 04: Marc Marquez won MotoGP's Grand Prix of the Americas for the seventh time.

Oct. 04: Fumio Kishida was formally elected as the Prime Minister of Japan.

### GK Tidbits

1. Shavkat Mirziyoyev is the President of Uzbekistan

2. Dutch Post-impressionist painter, who is noted for his use of colour, and producing masterpieces like 'Sunflowers' was Vincent van Gogh

3. The Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam has sparked a stand-off between Ethiopia and: Egypt and Sudan

4. The country that depends on the Nile for about 97 percent of its irrigation and drinking water is: Egypt

5. COP26, the UN Climate Change Conference, will be held in Glasgow from Oct. 31 to Nov. 12

6. Original name of Akbar Alenabadi was: Syed Akbar Hussain

7. Pakistan became an SCO Observer in 2005 and a full member, along with India, in: June 2017

8. The SBP de-linked rupee from pound sterling and aligned it with US dollar on: 16 Sept. 1971

9. The world's only permanent war crimes tribunal is: The ICC

10. The world's biggest tree is: General Sherman

11. The Arc de Triomphe monument is in: Paris

12. The International Space Station is due for retirement after: 2024

13. Bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) is commonly known as: Mad cow disease

14. The war that ended in Napoleon Bonaparte's exile and life imprisonment on the St. Helena island was: The Battle of Waterloo

15. Napoleon is buried at: The Invalides Palace

16. Al Azhar University is in: Cairo (Egypt)

17. Mufti Muhammad Taqi Usmani remained a judge of the Shariah Appellate Bench of the Supreme Court of Pakistan from: 1982 to: 2002

18. Canary Islands, a group of mountainous islands in the Atlantic off the northwest coast of Africa, forms a province of: Spain

19. The first human-made earth satellite, Sputnik 1, was launched on: 4th October 1957

20. World Space Week 2021 celebrations were held on: October 4-10

21. The first world leader to speak at the 76th session of United Nations General Assembly was: Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro

22. The world's largest vaccine maker is: Serum

### Institution of India

23. Egypt's first freely elected president was: Mohamed Morsi

24. Khartoum is the capital of: Sudan

25. The world's largest emitter of carbon dioxide is: China

26. The current ambassador of Republic of Turkey to Pakistan is: Hasan Mustafa Yurdakul

27. Port-au-Prince is the capital of: Haiti

28. According to the WEF's Gender Gap Report 2021, on gender parity Pakistan ranks: 153rd

29. The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty was opened for signature on: September 24, 1996

30. The world's first nuclear test was conducted on July 16, 1945 in the desert of: New Mexico

31. The Sarghar Peak (7,303m) of the Hindukush mountain range is located in the north of: Chitral

32. Althing is the national parliament of: Iceland

33. A Pakistani valley that is known as the Switzerland of the East is: Swat Valley

34. Shingrai Waterfall is located in: Swat Valley

35. The East India Company captured the

Oct. 05: Simon Gass, Britain's special representative for Afghanistan, along with Martin Longden, charge d'affaires at the now-evacuated UK mission to Afghanistan, held talks with senior Taliban officials in Kabul.

Oct. 05: Russian actress Yulia Peresild and film director Klim Shipenko arrived at the International Space Station (ISS) in a bid to beat the United States and film the first movie in orbit.

Oct. 05: Singapore passed a controversial law aimed at countering foreign interference in domestic affairs.

Oct. 06: The World Health Organisation endorsed the RTS,S/AS01 malaria vaccine, the first against the mosquito-borne disease.

Oct. 07: The England and Wales Cricket Board chairman Ian Watmore stepped down with immediate effect, following criticism of the decision to cancel a tour of Pakistan.

Oct. 07: The M100 Media Award, a German prize for democracy and freedom of expression, was awarded to imprisoned Russian opposition figure Alexei Navalny and his FBK anti-corruption foundation.

Oct. 07: Japanese government appointed Mitsuhiko Wada its new ambassador to Pakistan.

Oct. 07: The European Union won its battle at the UN Human Rights Council to create a new special rapporteur on Afghanistan, despite opposition from China and Russia.

Oct. 08: A US nuclear submarine was damaged after hitting an unidentified object while operating underwater in Asia.

Oct. 08: Sierra Leone's President Julius Maada Bio signed a bill abolishing the death penalty.

Oct. 08: Bangladesh sealed an agreement with the United

Nations to provide help in resettlement of more than 80,000 Rohingya refugees to a remote island in Bhushan Char, in the Bay of Bengal.

Oct. 08: Bahrain, Russia and other members of the UN Human Rights Council pushed through a vote to shut down the body's war crimes investigations in Yemen.

Oct. 08: In a landmark deal, a group of 136 countries set a minimum global tax rate of 15 percent for big companies and sought to make it harder for them to avoid taxation.

Oct. 08: The IMF approved a fourth round of debt relief for 24 poor nations, including new recipients Lesotho and Kyrgyzstan, to help them weather the Covid-19 pandemic.

Oct. 08: Indian giant Tata bought back Air India, 89 years after founding it as Tata Air and half a century following its nationalisation, in a \$2.4bn deal with the Indian government.

Oct. 08: The UN Human Rights Council recognised access to a clean and healthy environment as a fundamental right, formally adding its weight to the global fight against climate change and its devastating

## Where Living is the Most Expensive

Countries with the highest Cost of Living Plus Rent Index in 2020



consequences.

Oct. 09: During their first face-to-face talks since the US withdrawal from Afghanistan, the Taliban warned the United States not to "destabilise" the regime.

Oct. 09: Iran's first president after the 1979 Islamic revolution, Abolhassan Banisadr, died. He was 88.

Oct. 09: Prime Minister Andrej Babis' centrist party narrowly lost the Czech Republic's parliamentary election.

Oct. 09: Lebanon plunged into darkness by a power outage

## GK Tidbits

sovereign kingdom of the Punjab in: 1848

36. Rai Ahmed Khan Khattar was martyred in: 1839

37. Switzerland decriminalised homosexuality in: 1942

38. The University of Ancient Taxila was designated as a Unesco's World Heritage Site in: 1980

39. The most important Buddhist Archaeological sites in the world are located near the twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad in: Taxila

40. World Tourism Day is celebrated on: 27 Sept.

41. Mexico got independence in 1821 from: Spain

42. International Day for Universal Access to Information is observed on: 28 September

43. World Maritime Day is observed on: Last Thursday of September

44. Kwacha is the basic unit of money in Zambia and: Malawi

45. The World Heart Day is observed on: 29 Sept.

46. The 8,167-metre-high Dhaulagiri mountain is located in: Nepal

47. International Day of Non-Violence is observed

on: 2 October

48. Sebastian Kurz was the Chancellor of: Austria

49. World Habitat Day is marked on: October 4

50. Manjokha Waterfall is located in: Kharmang Valley (Gilgit-Baltistan)

51. Unesco Pakistan Country Director is: Patricia McPhillips

52. World Teachers' Day 2021 was observed on: October 05

53. PAF Academy, Asghar Khan, is located in: Risalpur

54. The current Chairman of New Pakistan Housing Authority (PHA) is: Lt. Gen. (R) Anwar Ali Haider

55. The 15th Quadrennial Meeting of United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) was hosted by: Barbados

56. Meeting to Quid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah with Jawaharlal Nehru in 1946 was made possible by unfurling efforts of: Nawab of Bhopal

57. A peninsula that is often called the graveyard of navies stretching back to ancient times is:

Gallipoli

58. Chuuk Lagoon, famous for its World War II wrecks, is located in: Papua New Guinea

59. The longest-serving Director General of the Inter-Services Intelligence Agency, to date, is: Major General Robert Bill Cawthorne

60. The only coin-making facility in Pakistan is: The Pakistan Mint

61. The person who is called the Father of Indian Industry is: Jamsetji Tata

62. Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) is based in: Paris

63. World Post Day is celebrated on: Oct. 09

64. The World Bank Country Director in Pakistan is: Najla Bin Hassane

65. The capital of the Czech Republic is: Prague

66. Taiwan and China split in: 1949

67. The formal name of Taiwan is: Republic of China

68. The person who led the 1911 revolution that toppled the Qing empire in China was: Sun Yat-sen

69. The Chinese territory that has never formally



After the country's two largest power stations – al Zahrani and al Ammar – were forced to shut down, reportedly owing to fuel shortages.

Oct. 09: Austria's Sebastian Kurz announced he was stepping down as chancellor.

Oct. 10: The Jordanian government's ministers submitted their resignations.

Oct. 10: Mercedes driver Valtteri Bottas claimed his first chequered flag of the season to win the Turkish Grand Prix.

Oct. 11: Tunisia got a new government after more than two months without one.

Oct. 11: Talks between Indian and Chinese army commanders to disengage troops from key friction areas along their border ended in a stalemate.

Oct. 11: Kylian Mbappe helped France win the Nations League.

Oct. 12: Ireland's Amy Hunter became international cricket's youngest centurion when she struck an unbeaten 121 against Zimbabwe on her 16th birthday.

Oct. 12: Iran's army and the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) launched a joint military exercise with a focus on air defence.

Oct. 12: The EU pledged a one billion euro aid package for Afghanistan.

Oct. 12: The UN's top court awarded Somalia control of most of a potentially oil- and gas-rich chunk of the Indian Ocean.

Oct. 12: The Biden administration appointed Elizabeth Jones, a veteran diplomat, to lead efforts for relocation and resettlement in Afghanistan.

Oct. 13: The Iranian military successfully tested anti-missile defences for "sensitive" sites during war games in central Iran.

Oct. 13: Star Trek's William Shatner, one of science-fiction's most recognisable characters, became a real-life space traveller when he went on Blue Origin's second human mission. He also became the oldest ever astronaut.

Oct. 13: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) announced to elevate its ambition to deliver climate financing to its developing member countries to \$100 billion from 2019-2030.

Oct. 13: At a key UN conservation summit in Kunming (China), some 195 countries said they would support the 'Kunming Declaration' working to tackle issues around biodiversity and species protection.

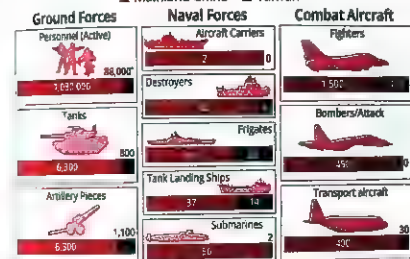
Oct. 14: The United States was reelected to the UN Human Rights Council three-and-a-half years after its dramatic walkout, while the UN General Assembly also chose Eritrea, often criticised for alleged rights abuses, to take a seat.

Oct. 14: Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida dissolved the House of Representatives for an upcoming general election.

Oct. 15: China launched a rocket carrying three astronauts to its new space station on what is set to be the country's longest crewed mission to date.

Oct. 15: The COP15 gathering in South China's Kunming saw the adoption of a declaration to recognise the importance of biodiversity in human health, strengthen species protection laws and improve the sharing of genetic resources.

#### ■ Mainland China ■ Taiwan



#### GK Tidbits

declared independence is: **Taiwan**

70. The Pakistan Military Academy is in: **Kakul**

71. The British MP who kept tabling resolutions demanding that India be given its freedom was: **Charles Bradlaugh**

72. Qaid-e-Azam Business Park is located in: **Sheikhupura**

73. The current Director General of Anti-Narcotics Force is: **Maj. Gen. Ghulam Shabbir Narejo**

74. Bisher Al-Khaswaneh is the PM of: **Jordan**

75. Jebel A. Port is located in: **UAE**

76. International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction was marked on: **October 13**

77. Darien Gap jungle, one of the main routes for migrants heading from South America to the United States, is located between Colombia and: **Panama**

78. Najla Bouden is the first female prime minister of: **Tunisia**

79. Chief Justice of Gilgit-Baltistan Chief Court is: **Justice Ali Baig**

80. The current Secretary General of the

Commonwealth is: **Baroness Patricia Scotland**

81. The Punjab Local Bodies Act, 2019, was passed by the provincial legislature in: **May 2019**

82. China's first space walk was performed in 2008 by: **Zhai Zhigang**

83. China's space station is named: **Tiangong**

84. The Director General of Pakistan Meteorological Department is: **Muhammad Riaz**

85. Bali is a beautiful island in: **Indonesia**

86. The Cabinet Mission, consisting of Stafford Cripps, Pethick Lawrence and A.V. Alexander, arrived in New Delhi in: **1946**

87. In Greek mythology, the king of all gods is: **Zeus**

88. The Iran Nuclear Deal, also called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), was signed between Iran and the US in: **July 2015**

89. Muhammad Ali won his first Olympic gold medal at: **1960 Summer Olympics**

90. A famous case ever fought due to the implications it had for abortion laws in the United States was: **Roe v. Wade**

91. James Bonsack created the cigarette-making machine in: **1881**

92. A Nazi plan that aimed at eliminating the physically or mentally ill German population was named: **T4**

93. The term 'Third World' came into being during the: **Cold War**

94. The tree three under which Sakyamuni, also called Siddhartha Gautama or Buddha, achieved enlightenment was: **The Bodhi tree**

95. The 'Seven Deadly Sins' were first introduced to the world by: **Pope Gregory I**

96. Patrice Lumumba was the first democratically elected prime minister of: **Congo**

97. The first ever FIFA World Cup started on July 13, 1930 in: **Uruguay**

98. Football was removed from Olympics in: **1932**

99. The right to vote for public officials and representatives of a government is called: **Suffrage**

100. The region that is known as 'The World's North Pole' is: **The Arctic**

MCQs / NATIONAL

- On Sept. 16, Pakistan and \_\_\_\_\_ signed an agreement to promote two-way tourism in SCO member states.  
(a) China (b) Russia  
(c) Iran (d) Uzbekistan
- On Sept. 17, \_\_\_\_\_ unilaterally pulled out of a cricket series against Pakistan, over security concerns.  
(a) England (b) New Zealand  
(c) Australia (d) South Africa
- The National Assembly passed a resolution paying rich tributes to veteran Kashmiri leader, Syed Ali Geelani, on \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) Sept. 15 (b) Sept. 16  
(c) Sept. 17 (d) Sept. 18
- Multinational UN Peacekeeping Exercise 'Shared Destiny-2021', in which Pak Army also participated, was held at a/an \_\_\_\_\_ training base.  
(a) Australian (b) Turkish  
(c) Russian (d) Chinese
- The two-week-long military exercise 'Bright Star 2021' was held at Mohamed Naguib Military Base of \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) Egypt (b) Saudi Arabia  
(c) Turkey (d) UAE
- On Sept. 21, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on \_\_\_\_\_, Tabish Gauhar, was sacked.  
(a) Food Security  
(b) Power and Petroleum  
(c) Finance and Revenue  
(d) Climate Change
- On Sept. 23, PM Khan announced bifurcation of \_\_\_\_\_ into two districts.  
(a) North Waziristan  
(b) Lower Dir  
(c) South Waziristan  
(d) Upper Dir
- On \_\_\_\_\_, PM Imran Khan addressed the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly  
(a) Sept. 20 (b) Sept. 22  
(c) Sept. 23 (d) Sept. 24
- The first visually impaired diplomat of the world who spoke to the world body by using brail system of reading/writing was \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) Saima Saleem (b) Maria Reisa  
(c) Helen Keller (d) Samia Hassan
- Pakistan and China, on \_\_\_\_\_, agreed to include multi-billion dollar Karachi Coastal Comprehensive

Development Zone (KCCDZ) under the CPEC framework

- (a) Sept. 25 (b) Sept. 26  
(c) Sept. 27 (d) Sept. 28
- Pakistan's youngest mountaineer to scale Manaslu, the world's eighth highest peak, is \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) Nazir Sabir (b) Ali Sadpara  
(c) Shehroze Kashif (d) Samina Baig
- National Telecommunication Corporation is headquartered in \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) Lahore (b) Karachi  
(c) Islamabad (d) Quetta
- On Sept. 28, veteran journalist Wajid Shamsul Hasan, who also served as Pakistan's High Commissioner in \_\_\_\_\_, passed away.  
(a) India (b) Australia  
(c) Canada (d) UK
- On Sept. 28, former national \_\_\_\_\_ champion Tania Mallick was appointed the PCB's Head of Women's Cricket.



- (a) Table Tennis (b) Badminton  
(c) Tennis (d) Squash
- On Sept. 29, the government appointed \_\_\_\_\_ the Federal Tax Ombudsman for a period of 4 years.  
(a) Dr Ishrat Husain  
(b) Ali Nawaz Awan  
(c) Dr Asif Mahmood Jah  
(d) Dr Shoab Suddle
- Shah Farman is the current governor of \_\_\_\_\_ province.  
(a) Sindh (b) Balochistan  
(c) GB (d) KP
- On Oct. 01, Pakistani mountaineer \_\_\_\_\_ scaled the 8,167-metre-high Dhaulagiri mountain in Nepal.  
(a) Sirbaz Khan (b) Shehroze Kashif  
(c) Samina Baig (d) Mirza Ali Baig
- The first Pakistani to climb nine of the world's highest 14 peaks, each of which has a height of more than 8,000 metres, is \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) Nazir Sabir (b) Ali Sadpara  
(c) Sirbaz Khan (d) Samina Baig

- On Oct. 01, the first Pakistan-China technical vocational institute was inaugurated in \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) Lahore (b) Karachi  
(c) Gwadar (d) Quetta
- Veteran actor, king of comedy and living legend, Umer Sharif, passed away, on Oct. 02, in \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) USA (b) Qatar  
(c) France (d) Germany
- The Pandora Papers, which were released on Oct. 03, revealed that Pakistanis were ranked \_\_\_\_\_ among those buying properties in London through offshore companies.  
(a) Fifth (b) Sixth  
(c) Seventh (d) Eighth
- On Oct. 03, major joint naval exercise 'Naseem Al Bahr XIII' between the navies of Pakistan and \_\_\_\_\_ commenced at Karachi.  
(a) Kuwait (b) Qatar  
(c) Saudi Arabia (d) UAE
- On Oct. 03, the opening ceremony of 53rd World Military Shooting Championship (Shotgun) 2021, which was held under the auspices of Conseil International du Sport Militaire, was conducted at \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) Gwadar (b) Lahore  
(c) Quetta (d) Karachi
- National Counter Terrorism Centre is located in \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) Rawalpindi (b) Peshawar  
(c) Jhelum (d) Pabbi
- The 11th Session of Iran-Pakistan Bilateral Political Consultations was held in \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) Islamabad (b) Karachi  
(c) Tehran (d) Zahidan
- President Dr Arif Alvi promulgated the National Accountability (Amendment) Ordinance, 2021 on \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) Oct. 05 (b) Oct. 06  
(c) Oct. 07 (d) Oct. 08
- The incumbent Chairman of National Accountability Bureau is \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) Munawar Rana (b) Saleem Shahzad  
(c) Javed Iqbal (d) Hussain Afghar
- On Oct. 06, \_\_\_\_\_ was appointed the spokesperson of the Punjab government.  
(a) Sania Ashiq (b) Zafarullah Khan  
(c) Fayaz Chohan (d) Hassan Khawar

29. On Oct. 08, the federal government issued a commemorative coin of Rs 70 to mark the 70-year diplomatic relations with \_\_\_\_\_.

- (a) Germany (b) South Korea  
(c) France (d) Switzerland

30. The closing ceremony of military exercise 'Druzhba-VI' was held at Molokino Training Area, Krasnodar, Russia on \_\_\_\_\_.

- (a) Oct 08 (b) Oct. 09  
(c) Oct. 10 (d) Oct. 11

31. Pakistan Pavilion at the Dubai Expo 2020 was formally inaugurated by \_\_\_\_\_.

- (a) Shankar Tarin (b) Imran Khan  
(c) Arif Alvi (d) Razak Dawood

32. Former president and prime minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan, passed away on \_\_\_\_\_.

- (a) Oct. 07 (b) Oct. 08  
(c) Oct. 09 (d) Oct. 10

33. On \_\_\_\_\_, Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan, celebrated as the father of Pakistan's nuclear weapons programme, died at 85.

- (a) Oct. 07 (b) Oct. 08  
(c) Oct. 09 (d) Oct. 10

34. On Oct. 12, President Alvi appointed \_\_\_\_\_ the deputy chairman of NAB.

- (a) Hussain Agha (b) Zahid Shah  
(c) Ayesha Khan (d) Saleem Shahzad

35. On Oct. 14, the state-of-the-art \_\_\_\_\_-origin HQ-9/P HIMADS (high to medium air defence system) was commissioned into the Pakistan Army Air Defence.

- (a) Russian (b) German  
(c) Chinese (d) French

36. Chief of the General Staff of Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Major General Mohammad Bagheri, called on COAS Gen. Qamar Javed Bajwa on \_\_\_\_\_.

- (a) Oct. 10 (b) Oct. 11  
(c) Oct. 12 (d) Oct. 13

37. On Oct. 14, Syed Khalid Siraj Subhani was appointed the acting Managing Director of \_\_\_\_\_.

- (a) OGDCL (b) SNGPL  
(c) PEMRA (d) NEPRA

38. On Oct. 14, \_\_\_\_\_ won, for the second consecutive time, the National

T20 title.

- (a) Punjab (b) KP  
(c) Sindh (d) Balochistan

39. On Oct. 15, the Atwan-e-Sadr was awarded an international certification of ISO 50001 EnMS, making it the world's \_\_\_\_\_ President Secretariat to go green.

- (a) First (b) Second  
(c) Third (d) Fourth

40. Pakistan has ranked \_\_\_\_\_ out of the 116 countries, with a score of 24.7, on Global Hunger Index, 2021.

- (a) 87th (b) 91st  
(c) 92nd (d) 112th

## INTERNATIONAL

1. On Sept. 16, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson nominated Liz Truss to be Britain's new foreign secretary, making her only the \_\_\_\_\_ woman to hold this post.

- (a) Second (b) Third  
(c) Fourth (d) Fifth

2. On \_\_\_\_\_, the United States announced a new alliance - dubbed AUKUS - with Australia and United Kingdom.

- (a) Sept. 14 (b) Sept. 15  
(c) Sept. 16 (d) Sept. 17

3. On Sept. 17, three \_\_\_\_\_ astronauts returned to Earth after completing the country's longest-ever crewed mission.

- (a) Russian (b) Chinese  
(c) Indian (d) Japanese

4. On Sept. 17, ICC named prominent rights lawyer Amal Clooney as a special adviser on \_\_\_\_\_ conflict.

- (a) Darfur (b) Tigray  
(c) Kashmir (d) Yemen

5. On Sept. 17, Clive Sinclair, the \_\_\_\_\_ inventor and entrepreneur, who did more than anyone else to inspire a whole generation of children into a life-long passion for computers and gaming, died.

- (a) German (b) American

- (c) Swiss (d) British

6. The 20th Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Council of Heads of State meeting was held in \_\_\_\_\_.

- (a) Beijing (b) Moscow  
(c) Dushanbe (d) Islamabad

7. Mette Frederiksen is the current Prime Minister of \_\_\_\_\_.

- (a) France (b) Denmark  
(c) Finland (d) Australia

8. On Sept. 17, US President Joe Biden launched 'Global Methane Pledge' initiative to slash methane gas emissions and cut warming by at least 0.2 degrees Celsius by \_\_\_\_\_.

- (a) 2050 (b) 2060  
(c) 2075 (d) 2100

9. On Sept. 17, Abdelaziz Bouteflika, who ruled \_\_\_\_\_ for two decades before resigning in 2019, died.

- (a) Ethiopia (b) Nigeria  
(c) Gambia (d) Algeria

10. On Sept. 18, members of the SCO endorsed \_\_\_\_\_ future membership in the bloc.

- (a) Saudi Arabia (b) Afghanistan  
(c) Iran's (d) Turkey

11. On Sept. 21, the Taliban nominated \_\_\_\_\_ as Afghanistan's new ambassador to UN.

- (a) Zabiullah Mujahid  
(b) Suhail Shaheen  
(c) Khalil-ur-Rahman Haqqani  
(d) Anas Haqqani

12. On Sept. 21, \_\_\_\_\_ Egypt's Field Marshal Mohammed Hussein Tantawi, who headed the military junta that ruled the country, died.

- (a) Egypt's (b) Tunisia's  
(c) Libya's (d) Yemen's

13. On Sept. 21, Naseebullah Haqqani, a member of the Haqqani Network, was appointed the head of Afghanistan cricket board, replacing \_\_\_\_\_.

- (a) Bilal Sami (b) Bilal Sayeedi  
(c) Azizullah Fazli (d) Hamid Shinwari

14. As per SIPRI's yearbook 2021, the second biggest importer of arms, after Saudi Arabia, is \_\_\_\_\_.

- (a) Pakistan (b) China  
(c) India (d) UAE

15. On Sept. 24, the first in-person summit of the Quad group since the Covid-19 outbreak was held in \_\_\_\_\_.

- (a) London (b) Washington DC

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- (c) Canberra (d) Tokyo

16. On \_\_\_\_\_, Pak-India women's rights icon Kamla Bhasin passed away.

- (a) Sept. 25 (b) Sept. 26  
(c) Sept. 27 (d) Sept. 28

17. The military exercise 'Peace Mission' under the ambit of SCO, in which troops from all SCO member states participated, was held in \_\_\_\_\_.

- (a) Uzbekistan (b) China  
(c) Tajikistan (d) Russia

18. \_\_\_\_\_ has become the first country in Europe to have women occupying more than half of the seats in the new parliament.

- (a) Finland (b) Denmark  
(c) Iceland (d) Latvia

19. On Sept. 26, in a referendum, nearly two-thirds of \_\_\_\_\_ voters backed the government's plan to introduce same-sex marriage.

- (a) French (b) Swiss  
(c) German (d) British

20. The Ryder Cup is a biennial men's golf competition between teams from \_\_\_\_\_ and the United States.

- (a) Europe (b) Australia  
(c) Japan (d) Canada

21. Bundestag is the federal parliament of \_\_\_\_\_.

- (a) Norway (b) France  
(c) Denmark (d) Germany

22. The bill 'The Afghanistan Counterterrorism, Oversight, and Accountability Act', was introduced in the US Senate on \_\_\_\_\_.

- (a) Sept. 26 (b) Sept. 27  
(c) Sept. 28 (d) Sept. 29

23. On Sept. 28, the Taliban announced to temporarily adopt the constitution that was enacted by Zahir Shah in \_\_\_\_\_.

- (a) 1962 (b) 1964  
(c) 1966 (d) 1970

24. On Sept. 29, top Rohingya community leader Mohib Ullah was shot dead in a refugee camp in \_\_\_\_\_.

- (a) Bangladesh (b) Myanmar  
(c) Nepal (d) India

25. Cox's Bazar is a famous district in \_\_\_\_\_.

- (a) Bangladesh (b) Myanmar  
(c) Nepal (d) India

26. Hypersonic missiles are generally defined as travelling more than five

times the speed of sound, or \_\_\_\_\_.

- (a) Mach 3 (b) Mach 4  
(c) Mach 5 (d) Mach 15

27. On Oct. 01, Col Mamady Doumbouya was sworn in as \_\_\_\_\_ interim president.

- (a) Morocco's (b) Guinea's  
(c) Ethiopia's (d) Egypt's

28. On \_\_\_\_\_, Dubai Expo 2020 - the Middle East's first world fair - opened.

- (a) Oct. 01 (b) Oct. 02  
(c) Oct. 03 (d) Oct. 04

29. On Oct. 02, \_\_\_\_\_ wrapped up its first legislative election to elect 30 members of the 45-strong Shura Council.

- (a) Bahrain (b) Kuwait  
(c) UAE (d) Qatar

30. International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ) is based in \_\_\_\_\_.

- (a) London (b) Berlin  
(c) Washington (d) Geneva

31. On \_\_\_\_\_, the ICIJ released a huge tranche of leaked data on offshore companies - dubbed as Pandora Papers.

- (a) Oct. 02 (b) Oct. 03  
(c) Oct. 07 (d) Oct. 10

32. On Oct. 03, the European-Japanese BepiColombo spacecraft sent back its first images of \_\_\_\_\_.

- (a) Mercury (b) Mars  
(c) Jupiter (d) Venice

33. On Oct. 04, \_\_\_\_\_ launched a new hypersonic cruise missile 'Zircon' from a submarine.

- (a) China (b) India  
(c) Turkey (d) Russia

34. On Oct. 05, \_\_\_\_\_ actress Yulia Peresild and film director Klim Shipenko arrived at the International Space Station (ISS) in a bid to film the first movie in orbit.

- (a) Polish (b) Norwegian  
(c) Russian (d) Dutch

35. The first vaccine endorsed by WHO against the mosquito-borne disease of malaria is \_\_\_\_\_.

- (a) Moderna (b) RTS,  
S/AS01

© R21/Matrix-M (d) PfSPZ

36. On Oct. 08, \_\_\_\_\_ President Julius Maada Bio signed a bill abolishing the



death penalty.

- (a) Sierra Leone's (b) Gambia's  
(c) Iraq's (d) Belarus's

37. On Oct. 08, a group of \_\_\_\_\_ countries set a minimum global tax rate of 15% for big companies.

- (a) 95 (b) 120  
(c) 130 (d) 136

38. On \_\_\_\_\_, the UN Human Rights Council recognised access to a clean and healthy environment as a fundamental right.

- (a) Oct. 05 (b) Oct. 07  
(c) Oct. 08 (d) Oct. 09

39. On Oct. 12, \_\_\_\_\_ Amy Hunter became international cricket's youngest centurion when she struck an unbeaten 121 against Zimbabwe on her 16th birthday.

- (a) Australia's (b) Ireland's  
(c) South Africa's (d) England's

40. On Oct. 13, the key UN conservation summit COP 15 started in Kunming, \_\_\_\_\_.

- (a) Philippines (b) Japan  
(c) Thailand (d) China

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